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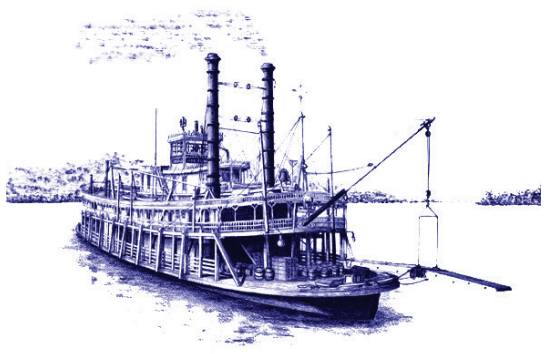

5TH-RANKED REBELS KEEP ROLLING, BEAT JCD, CLARKSVILLE TO REMAIN UNBEATEN ON SEASON ***PAGE B1***

THE MADISON COURIER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023 | *Serving the Courier area since 1837* | NEWSSTAND • $1.25

Dispute with trailer park owner headed to mediation

BY BOB DEMAREE

Circuit Judge D.J. Mote has asked the City of Madison to enter into mediation with the owners of a downtown Trailer Park who are appealing a Madison Board of Public Works and Safety (BPWS) order requiring demolition and removal of seven trailers at Moody Park.

Joe Jenner, attorney for the city, reported on the court proceedings to BPWS Monday that the court recently gave the city and owners James and Gail Cunningham until March 1, 2024, to resolve their dispute before the case is scheduled to go to trial on April 23.

The seven trailers are located on parcels at 938 to 940 Walnut Street at 421 Mobile Home Park, owned by James Cunningham that all have Moody Park Lane addresses.

Jenner said after the appeal by the Cunninghams, the two sides "have been going back and force with some discovery. We've received documents from them. They've received documents from us, and court has recently ordered us to attempt to mediate, and see if some type of resolution can be

SEE **DISPUTE/PAGE A2**

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS ANNOUNCED

Several closings have been announced in conjunction with the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Madison City Hall offices, including the water office, will be closed Friday, Dec. 22 through Monday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday. City offices will re-open for regular business hours, Tuesday, Dec. 26. The transfer station will be closed Friday, Dec. 22, Saturday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 25. The transfer station will re-open on Tuesday, Dec. 26 for regular business hours. Trash will be delayed one day during the week of Dec. 25-29.

City of Madison offices will also be closed for the New Year's holiday on Monday Jan. 1. Transfer Station will also be closed. Trash will be delayed one day that week also.

Jefferson County offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 22, through Monday, Dec. 25 for Christmas, re-opening Tuesday, Dec. 26. County offices will also be closed for the New Year's holiday on Monday, Jan. 1, re-opening Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The town of Hanover offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas, and again on Monday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday.

Local veterinary medicine program moves closer to launch

Hanover to offer doctorate program, Ivy Tech nursing, tech

BY BOB DEMAREE

With Hanover College and Ivy Tech Community College Madison receiving a $5.9 million grant in 2022 to launch a veterinary medicine program, the project is now moving towards accreditor approval and the construction process after a vote Thursday by the Hanover College board of trustees and faculty.

The project is expected to have $16.5 million in facilities and operational start-up costs, which includes construction/renovation and furnishing of buildings on the Hanover College campus in addition to the hiring of doctoral-level faculty and associated staff.

"Indiana is an agricultural state with a growing biotech and agriscience industry," said Hanover College President Lake Lambert. "To support all of those needs, Indiana needs more trained veterinary professionals and this program is going to make that possible."

Hanover College's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program is in conjunction with Ivy Tech Community College Madison, which will provide an associate degree level veterinary nursing program with approval from necessary accrediting organizations. The veterinary nursing students will pursue licensure as a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) and work in practices, laboratories or agribusiness/bioscience industries.

The collaborative agreement allows Ivy Tech to use Hanover College's teaching center rent-free and share operational costs on student enrollments. "The opportunity to share these facilities affords us the opportunity to offer Indiana more veterinary professionals in a more cost-effective way," said Amanda Harsin, chancellor of Ivy Tech Madison.

Ivy Tech Madison's nursing programming is slated to begin in the fall of 2025 with Hanover College's first cohort starting in the fall of 2026.

Hanover College plans to locate its veterinary operations near the Scenic Drive entrance to campus, adjacent to State Road 56-62, giving the college a presence from the highway for the first time. The college will construct and/or renovate buildings to accommodate the program including a veterinary clinic, anatomy and physiology suite, necropsy laboratory and faculty/staff offices. Construction is expected to start in the spring of 2024.

SEE **LAUNCH/PAGE A8**

Wreaths Across America

Photos by Bob Demaree

Dozens of people helped lay wreaths at the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Saturday as part of Wreaths Across America. A total of 1,900 wreaths were laid on graves of veterans at the cemetery.

Veterans from the local American Legion Honor Guard conducted a gun salute and played taps as volunteers gathered to place wreaths on the graves at the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Madison during Saturday's Wreaths Across America event.

Rosalind Harrell of Madison (left) talks Sherri Brandon of Madison as they placed wreaths during Saturday's Wreaths Across America event.

Open house at new jail set for Jan. 6

Suit over water could delay full opening

BY BOB DEMAREE

With the new Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Criminal Justice Center moving closer to being ready for operation, the Jefferson County Sheriff's office has announced that there will be a community open house Saturday, Jan. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and a tour of the new facility at 1150 J.A. Berry Lane.

However, at Monday's Madison Board of Public Works and Safety meeting, Madison Mayor Bob Courtney said there could be a delay in the move of inmates from the downtown jail to the new location because of a pending lawsuit that was filed on March 17 in United States District Court Southern District of Indiana in New Albany by the Dupont Water Company against the city of Madison that has yet to be resolved.

SEE **JAIL/PAGE A5**

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Norma Baxter
Nell Bishop
Adelia Briner
Iyla Briner
Leland Briner
Naomi Briner
Laura Gerber
Jean Gray
Gerald Horine
Carolyn Jessie
Esther Massey
Larry Maxwell
Daniel Rose
Mary Simmons
James Smitley
Edward Wiesenthal
Mary Wilder
Danny Wise

8 51633 00100 7

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL

LODGINGS

December 13, 2023

Michele D. Tingle, 39, Vevay, Indiana, on a Jefferson County warrant for failure to appear (obstruction of justice possession of paraphernalia). Bond $5,000 cash.

December 14, 2023

Diana L. Adams, 52, Milton, Kentucky, Unlawful Possession or Use of a Legend Drug and Maintaining a Common Nuisance, both Level 6 felonies; Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor; Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond $1,000 cash.

Darin Sylvester Hall, 27, Deputy, Indiana, for Communication Intimidation, a Level 5 felony; Resisting Law Enforcement, Criminal Recklessness and Habitual Felony Violator, all Level 6 felonies; and Disorderly Conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond.

Dustin Howard Hardweck, 35, no address listed, for Possession of Methamphetamine, Unlawful Possession or Use at a Legend Drug and Maintaining a Common Nuisance, all Level 6 felonies; Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond $1,000 cash.

December 15, 2023

Jonathan Bradley Robbins, 23, Madison, for Resisting Law Enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond $500 cash.

Jacob Tyler Matthew, 24, no address listed, on a arrest warrant to hold for another county. No bond.

December 16, 2023

Kendra L. Davis, 33, Madison, for Residential Entry, a Level 6 felony; and Battery and Public Intoxication, both Class B misdemeanors. Bond $1,000 cash.

Robbie Paul King Jr., 41, no address listed, for Domestic Battery-2 Counts; both Level 6 felonies; Resisting Law Enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor; and Battery Resulting in Moderate Bodily Injury, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond.

Kendall Marie Ulen, 35, Madison, for Theft, a Level 6 felony; and Battery, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond.

December 17, 2023

Patrick Ian Broyles, 23, Madison, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant (revocation of parole). Bond $5,000 cash.

John Curtis Disbro, 28, Lexington, Indiana, for Public Intoxication Alcohol/Drugs, a Class B misdemeanor. Released on own recognizance.

James Byron Parker, 28, Madison, on a Jefferson County warrant for failure to appear. Bond $1,000 cash.

Barry Wayne Weddle, 64, Bethlehem, Indiana, for Possession of Marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor; and Operating While Intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond $100 cash.

December 18, 2023

Mary Jo Barger, 26, Austin, Indiana, for Operating A Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor, Bond $100 cash.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SUPERIOR & CIRCUIT COURT

SENTENCINGS

December 14, 2023

Brittany Nicole Durham, 25, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated-Endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 4 days served and 361 days suspended for non-reporting probation plus $389.50 in fees and court costs and license suspended for 90 days with specialized driving privileges.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

JEFFERSON COUNTY

December 14, 2023

James A. Johnson and Margaret M. Johnson to Thomas M. Prasil and Sarah M. Prasil, 10.195 acres at 7200 North 1000 West Commiskey.

James A. Johnson and Margaret M. Johnson to Calvin D. Johnson, 10.004 acres at 9323 West 750 North, Commiskey.

Franklin D. Skirvin Jr. and Leslie Maureen Skirvin to Leslie M. Skirvin, 313 Cragmont Street, Madison.

Marcia L. Morgan to Ronald Morgan, approximately 8.24 acres at 1530+ East Telegraph Hill Road, Madison.

Marcia L. Morgan to Ronald Kenneth Morgan, 1530 East Telegraph Hill Road, Madison.

Marcia L. Morgan to Ronald Kenneth Morgan, approximately 5.36 acres at 1534 East Telegraph Hill Road, Madison.

December 15, 2023

Cameron M. Sage and Elisabeth K. Francis to Cameron M. Sage, 251 Hargan Drive, Madison.

Raymond Godward and Donna Godward to Raymond Godward III and Donna N. Godward Family Trust, Raymond J. Godward III and Donna N. Godward. 513 West Main Street, Madison.

Hewetta Anderson and Owen T. Anderson (estate) to Hewetta Anderson, four tracts totaling approximately 70 acres at 5711 North Goat Mountain Road, Madison.

T. Lewis Investments LLC to Ray A. Judy, approximately 5.48 acres at 7986 West Ford Road, Lexington.

Taylor D. Day to LI's Family Properties LLC and LIS Family Properties LLC90 South Amber Waves, Boulevard, Hanover.

Mardi R. Kinyon and Corey G. Peck to Dean Barger and Amber Jo Peck, 3.579 acres at 4761 South Hanover Saluda Road, Hanover.

John D. Bilz to 841 LLC, 1132 & 1134 West Second Street, Madison.

Judith A. Phillips, Dena K. Webster and Megan S. Brown to Megan Brown and Mark Bahlke, two tracts totaling approximately 98 acres at 6810 North Boyd Road, Madison and 7500+ North State Road 7, Madison.

Bilz Bros LLC to Lanier Storage LLC, two tracts totaling approximately 3 acres at 1927 & 2007 Lanier Drive, Madison.

MCG LLC to Jesse Brooks and Kimberly Ann Brooks, 124 East Street, Madison.

Scott Field and Ashley Field to James Raymond Parker Jr. and Rosaria Parker, 2303 Flint Road, Madison.

Red Kettle drive

Bob Demaree

Jerrica Bledsoe was ringing in the holidays and raising funds for the local Salvation Army on Saturday in Madison during the organization's Red Kettle drive. By last week, the Salvation Army had achieved $40,471.16 of its overall $172,000 goal so a big push will be needed to get there by the close of the holidays.

Shop with a Firefighter

Photos by Bob Demaree

Clifty 6 firefighter Austin Schell (left) assists the Baker family during Shop with a Firefighter. Pictured are Addison and Letha Baker with Elayna Baker in the shopping cart. Children were able to buy warm clothes and toys with funds the firefighters raise throughout the year.

Giselle Morales enjoys a moment with Santa Claus at the Madison Elks Lodge No. 524, where children enjoyed breakfast before and lunch after participating in Shop with a Firefighter. For more photos, see Pages A4-5.

DISPUTE

FROM **PAGE A1**

reached. Both parties are agreeable to doing so, and we've picked a mediator" with work on that taking place over the upcoming months.

Jenner said if mediation is unsuccessful, the final hearing is set for April.

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney stated the hearing the BPWS had on Moody Park was "on the condition of the unsafe structures there" that results in "the order of removal, the order that those premises be vacated from occupancy because of inhabitable issues that we discovered."

"When you have a property owner that does not properly maintain their premises or structures," it's the city's responsibility "to enforce our ordinances for the health and safety of our community," Courtney said. "But in instances like this, it can take years to get the outcome that we're seeking there. But we"ll continue to be vigilant on that property and the other 90 plus structures we have on our universe across the city."

He said "a lot of progress is being made everywhere" as the city combines incentives with collaboration to convert structures from being dilapidated and unsafe to safe and occupied. "That contributes to the community and pays property taxes that enhances an entire neighborhood," he said. "It takes a lot of work to get the positive outcomes that we want, but we're going to continue to do it."

Courtney said it's the city's desire to have a positive outcome for Moody Park by working with the property owners there.

In other business, the board:

• Approved SRF payment disbursements in the water infrastructure project of $60,9534.36 to Commonwealth Engineers, $99,684 to Dave O'Mara Contracting, $74,791 to MW Cole Construction and $216,287 to Brackney Inc.

City utility superintendent Brian Jackson said work on the water main replacement in the distribution system by Brackney is 95% complete with rehabilitation of the water tank by MW Cole about 80% done.

The portion that still has the most left to do is the supply and treatment improvements at the city's existing water treatment facilities, which is being done by Dave O'Mara Contracting. Jackson said that project has been delayed because a crack was found in the well base at the JPG water treatment plant, 1245 West Main Street, that must be repaired before it can be put back in operation. Dave O'Mara Contracting will be making that repair, which will be separate from the contract and involve a change order.

Jackson said the JPG treatment plant must be repaired "and up and going before we start taking wells off on the west end" to do work there.

• John Wallace, who announced his retirement as police chief at the end of year, attended his final BPWS meeting in his official capacity. "I'll be here to support the new chief and the officers in any way I can," he said, adding he will ask for board permission for part-time status with the police department to do security work while being available to the police department if needed. Courtney said the application period for a new police chief ended Sunday, and the selection process for a new police chief is underway. "We'll have an announcement as soon as we can," he said.

• Approved a contract pending legal review and appropriation of funds with OpenGov, the software being used in the city's planning and zoning office to expand asset management and be utilized in compiling data for all of the city's utilities that include stormwater, trash, sidewalks, parks and facilities. Because the program is Cloud based, Nicole Schell, the city's director of planning, said, "We'll be able to map all of our different assets and both where they're located and track work history," she said. The three-year contract is for $73,958 in the first year, $21,144.90 in the second year and then a 5% increase in the next year. The reason for the higher cost in the first year is due to implementation and transfer of data into the new system.

• Approved a PACE award for 803 East Second Street to Mark and Lisa Faris for a $14,967.14 that will involve replacing windows and the entry door. Also, a $25,000 award was approved for 206 East Main St. to Brantley and Katie Beck that will include tuck pointing and other structural improvements. Additionally, a $25,000 award was approved for 1017 West First St. to Jeffrey Cobble in restoring the structure. All three were dilapidated structure grants.

• Presented a final PACE award of $12,500 to Cynthia Steward for 812 Walnut St., a dilapidated structure that had received an overall $25,000 grant.

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:23 p.m.
Temperature: High 39, Low 19, Mean 29.0, Deficit 10.1
Precipitation since last published: .49
Precipitation, December 2023: 1.24
Precipitation, 2023: 45.01
Barometer: 29.67, Rising
River Level at Clifty Creek: 421.85, Falling
Forecast: Wednesday: Partly cloudy High 49/Low 31; Thursday: Cloudy High 52/Low 37; Friday: Cloudy High 52/Low 40; Saturday: Cloudy High 53/Low 42; Sunday (Christmas Eve) Mostly cloudy High 58/Low 46; Monday (Christmas Day) Showers High 59/Low 49.

THE MADISON COURIER

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Noon Monday for Thursday issue
Noon Thursday for Saturday issue

VOL. 223 • ISSUE NO. 109

BIRTHDAYS

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

DECEMBER 20
Matt Brawner

DECEMBER 22
Jeff Ayler

DECEMBER 23
Luanne McCammon

DECEMBER 26
Roger Fuhrman

DECEMBER 27
Rusty Bladen
Terry King

DECEMBER 28
Betsey Vonderheide

LOTTERY

INDIANA

Hoosier Lotto: 1-9-12-14-31-43 (12/16). Next Estimated Jackpot: $1.4 million. Next Drawing (12/20).

Cash Five: 4-7-11-28-32 (12/17)

Cash 4 Life: 8-31-41-49-58 CB: 3 (12/17)

KENTUCKY

Cash Ball: 5-7-15-20 CB 16 (12/17)

Kentucky 5 Extra: 6-16-26-28-35 (12/17)

Lucky For Life:6-14-21-37-43 LB: 5 (12/17)

MEGAMILLIONS: 10-20-28-40-54 MB: 12, MP x2 (12/15). Next Jackpot: $41 million. Next Drawing (12/19)

POWERBALL: 3-9-10-20-62 PB: 25, PP 3 (12/16). Next Estimated Jackpot: $543 million. Next Drawing (12/18)

POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 9-39-41-46-65 PB: 3 (12/16). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to $10 million. Next Drawing (12/18)

OBITUARIES

Nell Bishop

Nell Bishop, 73, of Paris Crossing, passed away at 12:09 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023 at her residence. She was born on April 12, 1950 in Metcalfe County, Kentucky the daughter of Carlies and Vera (England) Wilson.

She was raised in Westport and graduated from Sandcreek High School in 1968. Nell was a member of Coffee Creek Baptist Church. She enjoyed antiquing and baking. Nell married David W. Bishop on Oct. 4, 1970 at the Westport Baptist Church and he survives.

Other survivors include daughter, Jessica (Darryl) Stewart of New Vienna, OH; son, Joshua (Jessica) Bishop of Carmel; sisters, Louise Wilson and Jane Wilson both of Westport; brothers, Charles Wilson of Anderson, Fred (Melody) Wilson of Ogilville, Ed Wilson of Greensburg and Ricky Wilson of Columbus; grandchildren, Phoebe and Claire Bishop. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Dec. 15, 2023 at Bass & Gasper Funeral Home with Pastor Gary Johnson officiating. Burial followed at the Westport Cemetery. A time of visitation was held on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023 at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions can be made to Our Hospice of South Central Indiana through the funeral home. Online condolences can be made to the family at www.bassgasper.com.

Leland Matlock Briner

Leland Matlock Briner, age 8, of Madison, Indiana entered this life on June 26, 2015 in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He was the son of Danny Matlock and Naomi Sue Briner. Leland died on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 5:03 p.m. at his home in Madison, Indiana.

Leland will be missed by his father and step mother, Danny Matlock and his wife, Jenna of Madison, IN; his sister, Makenna Matlock of Charlestown, IN; his paternal grandmother, Deborah Adkins of Jeffersonville, IN; his paternal grandfather and step grandmother, Danny Matlock and his wife, LaTonya of New Albany, IN; his maternal grandfather and step mother, Jerry Briner and his wife, Carol of Madison, IN; his maternal grandmother, Kimberly Sue Smith Briner of Madison, IN; his step grandparents, Cliff and Tammy Carnes of Madison, IN, Ken and Barb McMahon of Columbus, OH; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his mother, Naomi Sue Briner, died December 12, 2023, his sisters, Adelia Faye Briner, died December 12, 2023 and Iyla Danielle Briner, died December 12, 2023.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, December 22, 2023, at 11 a.m., by Bro. Donnie Roark at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana.

Friends may visit Thursday, December 21, 2023, from 4 — 8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Leland Matlock Briner Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and Memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Vernon 'Chuck' Wright Abney Jr.

Vernon "Chuck" Wright Abney Jr., age 62, of Madison, Indiana entered this life on May 6, 1961 in Louisville, Kentucky. Chuck was the loving son of the late Vernon Wright, Sr. and Barbara Chilton Abney. Chuck died on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at 10:31 a.m. at the Norton Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.

Chuck will be missed by his loving wife of 36 years, Bonita Mae Sipe Abney of Madison, IN; his children, Alicia Hendricks and her husband, Chris of Mooresville, IN, Derin Storm of Lexington, IN, Amy Stephens and her husband, Bailey of Madison, IN; his grandchildren, Hailey, Luke, Trinity, Gage, Kade and Casen; his sister, Amy Johnson and her husband, Rob of Campbellsburg, KY; his brother, Neil Abney of Campbellsburg, KY; his uncles, Rodney Abney and his wife, Becci of Machesney Park, IL, Roger Chilton and his wife, Janice of Campbellsburg, KY; his aunt, Linda Chilton of Lexington, IN; several nieces, nephews and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his father, Vernon Wright Abney, Sr.; his mother, Barbara Chilton Abney; his mother in law, Jackie Eades Sipe; his grandparents, Paul and Amy Chilton and Vernon and Virginia Abney.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 2 p.m. By Neil Tremblett at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre — Hanover Chapel, 278 East Main Street in Hanover, Indiana. Interment will follow at a later date in the Campbellsburg Cemetery in Campbellsburg, Kentucky.

Friends may visit Friday from 4 — 7 p.m. and Saturday from 12 p.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Hanover and Madison. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Mrs. M. Jean Underwood Gray

Mrs. M. Jean Underwood Gray, age 91, of Lexington, Indiana entered this life on August 3, 1932 in Milton, Kentucky, the loving daughter of the late Luther Alfred and Mary Lou Gosman Underwood. She was a lifelong resident of Jefferson County, Indiana and was a 1950 graduate of Hanover High School. She was united in marriage to Carroll Keith Gray on April 7, 1951 at the Kent United Methodist Church. They worked together on their farm west of Kent, Indiana. This happy union of 69 years was blessed with a son, Dennis Allen and a daughter, Jeanna Lynne. Jean was very proud of her work history. She started working at Morgan Foods in Scottsburg as a chemist and proceeded to Madison Bank and Trust as a teller for 10 years. She had worked in the Jefferson County Courthouse for Mr. Buchanan, as the first Recorder, and for Recorder, Anna Laura Peddie. Jean loved politics and decided to run for office. She was the County Assessor for eight years and the County Recorder for eight years. Jean held a realtor and broker's license and worked for Don Muster Realty. She was a member of the Indiana State Plumbing Commission. Lastly, she had been an attendant at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center for 17 years where she lovingly cared for residents. She was a life member of the Kent United Methodist Church, Sunday school Teacher and Bible School Coordinator, and Church Board. Jean was very involved in community organizations. She was a member of the Jefferson County Republican Women. She was a 30 member of the Jefferson County Homemakers, a 25 year 4-H Leader for Kent Clover Club and a 50 year member Hanover Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 525 and Chapter Guardian of Job's Daughters. She was a member of King's Daughters and served as Kings Daughters Camp Director for many years. Jean was a self taught artist, with a strong love of painting nature. Known to her Grandchildren as Ome, Jean loved to share her hobbies of growing flowers, feeding birds, sewing and painting with them. She also loved collecting Christmas Mice and Elephants. Jean died on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 1:30 a.m. at Autumn Trace in Madison, Indiana.

Jean will be missed by her loving daughter, Jeanna Carter and her husband, Mike of Madison, IN; her grandchildren, Brent and his wife, Caitlyn, Brice and his wife, Ashley, Jedidiah, and Aubreanna; her great grandchildren, Clay, Kyla, Kinsley and Cole; her sister, Linda Underwood Firth of Lexington, IN; her daughter in law, Linda K. Boldrey Gray of Lexington, IN; her sister in laws, Betty Gray of Madison, IN, Doris Gray Duncan of Lexington, IN; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Luther Alfred Underwood; her mother, Mary Lou Gosman Underwood; her son, Dennis Allen Gray; her brothers in law and sisters in law, Donald R. Firth, Inez O. Pruett, and her husband, Lloyd; LaDonna Barker and her husband, Lonnie; Glen "Bud" Edward Gray, and his wife, E. Neoma; Murel Leroy Gray, and Stanley Malcom Gray; Richard S. Duncan, and Patsy Rogers Gray, her husband of 69 years, Carroll Keith Gray, died February 6, 2020.

Funeral services will be conducted on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 1 p.m., by Chaplain T. C. Baker at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana. Entombment will follow in the Kent Cemetery in Lexington, Indiana.

Friends may visit Wednesday, December 20, 2023 from 4 — 6 p.m. and Wednesday from 12 noon until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Hanover Chapter No. 525 Order of Eastern Star will conduct services on Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kent United Methodist Church or the Jefferson Co. Animal Shelter or the Kent Cemetery. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.

Daniel Lawrence 'Danny' Rose

Daniel Lawrence "Danny" Rose, age 49, of Buckeye, Arizona, entered this life on December 1, 1974 in Phoenix, Arizona. He was the loving son of Samuel L. and Brenda D. Bassett Rose. Danny lost his battle with leukemia on December 8, 2023 with his family by his side.

Danny is survived by his children Cade, Kyle and Aubree all of Buckeye, AZ; his loving parents, Samuel L. and Brenda D. Rose of Buckeye, AZ; his brother, Marty Rose and his wife Gayle of Buckeye, AZ; his sister, Missy Pierpoint and her husband Jarrod of Buckeye, AZ; his cherished nieces and nephews, Brody, Hadley, Blake, and Zane; his maternal grandmother, Evelyn Bassett of Buckeye, Arizona formerly of Madison, IN; his aunts and uncles, Doris Konkle and her husband Ronald of Madison, IN, Jim Bassett of Buckeye, AZ, Richard and his wife Mickey of Wasilla, AK, Randy Bassett of Buckeye, AZ, and Greg Bassett and his wife Vickie of Buckeye, AZ; and several cousins and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Samuel L. Rose, Sr.; his paternal grandmother, Lula Mae Rose; his maternal grandfather, Losey A. Bassett; his aunts and uncles, Arthur Edward Bassett, Catherine Bassett and Jackie Whitlow.

Naomi Sue Briner

Naomi Sue Briner, age 35, of Madison, Indiana entered this life on January 9, 1988. She was the daughter of Jerry Lee and Kimberly Sue Smith Briner. She was raised and lived all of her life in Jefferson County. Naomi graduated in 2006 from Madison Consolidated High School and then received her RN from Ivy Tech. She was raised in the Calvary Wesleyan Church and also attended North Madison Christian Church.
She was blessed with daughters, Adelia Faye and Iyla Danielle and a son, Leland Matlock. She had worked for Clark Memorial Hospital in Jeffersonville for seven years and then began a career with the Madison Correctional Facility as the Director of Nursing and was currently serving as the Health Services Administrator. Naomi died on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at her home in Madison, Indiana.

Naomi will be missed by her father, Jerry Lee Briner and his wife, Carol of Madison, IN; her mother, Kimberly Sue Smith Briner of Madison, IN; her sisters, Amber Briner Helms and her husband, Aaron of El Dorado Hills, CA, Emily Briner and her husband, Daniel Schneider of El Dorado Hills, CA, Rachel Briner and her companion, Christian Pierce of Folsom, CA; her step brothers, Jeremy Hall and his wife, Addie of Madison, IN, James Hall and his wife, Allison of Bloomington, IN; her nieces and her nephews, Henry Helms, Clara Helms, Daisy Briner, Harrison Hall, Hudson Hall, Caroline Hall, Willa Hall; her uncles and her aunts, William and Judy Briner of Madison, IN, Elmyra Moore Cummins and Jack Cummins of TN, Betsy and Charlie Anderson of Underwood, Indiana, Russell and Lori Briner of Madison, Indiana, Mary and Bill Cragmyle of Madison, IN, LaWanda Halfacre of Deputy, IN, Terry and Brenda Smith of Shepherdsville, KY, Jeff and Jessica Smith of North Vernon, IN; her great aunts and her great uncle, Sally Brown, Robert Brown and JoAnn Brown; numerous cousins and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her children, Adelia Faye Briner, Leland Matlock Briner, and Iyla Danielle Briner, all died December 12, 2023, her maternal grandparents, Acie P. Smith, Jr., and Betty Jean Brown Smith; her paternal grandparents, William I. Briner, and Edythe Faye Gillespie Briner; her uncles and her aunts, Phyllis Briner Chandler, Lonny Lionel Briner, Sr., Carrie Lynn Briner, and Urban Jacob Briner; her companion, Dustin Smith.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 11 a.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana. Private interment will be in the Dupont Cemetery in Dupont, Indiana.

Friends may visit Friday from 4 — 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ivy Tech Nursing Program. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Iyla Danielle Briner

Iyla Danielle Briner, age 6, of Madison, Indiana entered this life on December 19, 2023 in Jeffersonville, Indiana. She was the daughter of Danny Matlock and Naomi Sue Briner. Iyla died on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at her home in Madison, Indiana.

Iyla will be missed by her father and step mother, Danny Matlock and his wife, Jenna of Madison, IN; her sister, Makenna Matlock of Charlestown, IN; her paternal grandma, Deborah Atkins of Jeffersonville, IN; her paternal grandfather and step-grandmother, Danny Matlock and his wife, LaTonya of New Albany, IN; her maternal grandfather and step grandmother, Jerry Briner and his wife, Carol of Madison, IN; her maternal grandmother, Kimberly Sue Smith Briner of Madison, IN; her paternal step grandparents, Cliff and Tammy Carnes of Madison, IN, Ken and Barb McMahon of Columbus, OH; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her mother, Naomi Sue Briner; her sister and her brother, Adelia Faye Briner, and Leland Matlock Briner all died December 12, 2023.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, December 22, 2023, at 11 a.m., by Bro. Donnie Roark at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana.

Friends may visit Thursday, December 21, 2023 from 4 — 8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Iyla Danielle Briner Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

SEE OBITUARIES/PAGE A4

DEATH NOTICES

Norma Faye Boyd Baxter, 91, of Deputy, IN, died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at her home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres in Madison, IN, www.morga-nay.com.

Adelia Faye Briner, 12, of Madison, IN, died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, in Madison. Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres in Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

Laura Katherine "Kathy" Polley Gerber, 80, of Bedford, KY, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at Thornton Terrace Health Campus in Hanover, IN. Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres in Madison, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

SEE DEATH/PAGE A4

OBITUARIES

Gerald R. 'Jerry' Horine

Gerald R. "Jerry" Horine, of Cornelius, NC, age 82, died peacefully at home on Dec. 10, 2023 with his loving family at his side. Born in 1941 in Saluda, IN, Jerry leaves behind a legacy of unforgettable memories and cherished moments with family and friends. He was the steady and generous patriarch of his family. Always kindhearted, devoted, and humble, he most enjoyed visiting with loved ones, telling stories and jokes, retelling jokes, playing the occasional prank on an unsuspecting target, and bragging about his kids and grandkids.

Jerry was passionate about his many hobbies and interests — landscaping, photography, painting, '55 — '57 Chevys, arrowhead hunting, college basketball, bird watching and all things outdoors. Jerry's award winning Christmas light displays showcased his creativity and handiwork. Recently, Jerry championed a Vietnam War Memorial fundraising effort to honor veterans in Madison, IN. Construction is now underway. Jerry's prized '55 Chevys, "Chameleon" and "Orange Crush," took top honors two years in a row at the Carl Casper International Auto Show in Louisville, KY. His cars earned Best of Show at other shows, including the Charlotte AutoFest in 2014. Jerry was a basketball standout at Saluda High School in the late 1950s. He often credited his basketball coach for steering him toward a purposeful life. During his decline in health, Jerry frequently spoke of having a blessed life, shared that he was not afraid, and asked his family not to be sad and to remember their blessings instead. From his humble beginnings as a worker in a shoe manufacturer to several jobs in sales, including a period as a sales leader at Pitney Bowes, Jerry eventually founded Mail Louisville in Louisville, KY and served as CEO for 15 years. Jerry believed in a hard day's work and giving your best in all you do. He and his beloved wife of 52 years, Murlene, described their "best years together" as those in the home they built on the banks of the Ohio River in Bethlehem, IN. Jerry and Murl retired to Bradenton, FL. Jerry is survived by Murl and children Brian, Michele Smith (Phil), and Mark.

He cherished spending time with his grandchildren Amber (Adam), Matthew (Keri), Mackenzie, Jesse, and Amanda, as well as great grandchildren Jack and Annie. Jerry enjoyed a close relationship with his siblings: Dennis Horine (Mary Anne), Beverly Harrison, Gale Horine, Danny Turner (Anna) and Denise Wells (Martin), and sister-inlaw Wanda Horine. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Marshall and Elizabeth, brother Herschel Dale Horine, sister Marsha Jane Sammons, sister-in-law Marie Horine, and brother-inlaw Ronald Harrison.

Jerry's family wishes to thank the care team of Hospice and Palliative Care of Iredell County in NC for their wonderful care.

A Celebration of Life is planned for a later date.

Esther Helena Neupert Massey

Esther Helena Neupert Massey, age 87, of Hanover, Indiana entered this life on April 16, 1936 in Peru, Indiana. She was the daughter of the late Richard George and Edna Annabelle Crockett Neupert. Esther was raised in Peru and was a 1954 graduate of Peru High School. On November 24, 1971, Esther was united in marriage to John Edwin Massey in Peru, Indiana. She was employed with the Square D Corporation in Peru until her retirement in 1985. After John's passing in 2010, Esther relocated to Hanover, Indiana to be close to her son, Rocklin and family. She enjoyed reading, collecting dolls and crocheting. While living in Hanover, Esther had attended the North Madison Church of Christ. Esther died on Friday, December 15, 2023, at 12:35 p.m., at Hickory Creek of Scottsburg in Scottsburg, Indiana.

Esther will be missed by her children, Rocklin Ash and his wife, Lori of Hanover, IN, Deborah Mazany of Merritt Island, FL, Paula Balderson of Dade City, FL; her step-children, Chris Massey and his wife, Nancy of Rogersville, TN, Kim Massey and his wife, Karen of Peru, IN, Curtis Massey and his wife, Ellen of Houston, TX, Karen Saenz and her husband, Tony of Kemah, TX; her grandchildren, Todd Ash of Madison, IN, Joel Ash and his wife, Leah of Rising Sun, IN, Charlotte Nevins and her husband, Andrew of Hanover, IN, Shandrea McDowell and her husband, Jason of Richmond, KY, John Mazany of Merritt Island, FL, Kristal Robinson and her husband, Ben of Branchville, SC, Alicia Balderson of Dade City, FL; many great grandchildren including: Kaitlin and her husband Ryan, Jakobe, Cooper, Xavier, Braxton, Jaxon, Tabitha, Bethany, Timothy, Cyrus, Abigail and Zeppelin; her brother-in-law, Ralph McCartney and his wife, Shirley; several nieces, nephews and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Edwin Massey who passed on January 2, 2010; her father, Richard George Neupert; her mother, Edna Annabelle Crockett Neupert; her son, James Ash; her son-in-law, David Balderson; her brother, David Neupert and his wife, Teresa; her sister, Alice McCartney.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 1 p.m., by Frank Fletcher at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre — Hanover Chapel, 278 East Main Street in Hanover, Indiana. Interment will follow at a later date in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Peru, Indiana.

Friends may call Tuesday from 11 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Hanover, Indiana.

Memorial in memory of Esther may be made to the North Madison Church of Christ. Envelopes are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Hanover and Madison. Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Carolyn Louise Erwin Jessie

Carolyn Louise Erwin Jessie, age 77, of Dupont, Indiana entered this life on February 21, 1946, in Columbus, Indiana. She was the loving daughter of the late Thomas Jefferson and Margaret Louise Hopkins Erwin. Carolyn, surrounded by her family, went to heaven to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, in Madison, Indiana.

Carolyn will be deeply missed by her loving husband of 40 years, Randall Jessie of Dupont, IN; her sons, Orville Eugene "Gene" Engle of Dupont, IN, and William Douglas "Doug" Crisman of Dupont, IN; her daughter, Tamera Lee "Tammy" Poynter of North Vernon, IN; her step son, Bobby Dale Jessie; her step daughter, Lisa Jo Jessie; her 12 grandchildren Joey, William (Brittany), Tricia, Megan (Alex), Joel (Samantha), Sarah, Jesslynn (Amber), Danielle, Bobby, Blake, Chelsea, and Joshua, and 26 great-grandchildren; her brother, Rick Erwin of Madison, IN; her sister-in-law, Patricia Erwin; and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her father, Thomas Jefferson Erwin; her mother, Margaret Louise Hopkins Erwin; her brothers, Danny Erwin and Billie Erwin; and her sisters-in-law, Carla Erwin and Lana Erwin.

Memorial services will be conducted Tuesday, December 19, at 5 p.m. by pastor Don Hadley at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana.

Friends may call Tuesday from 4 p.m. until time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or Our Hospice of South Central Indiana. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Edward Wiesenthal, III

Edward Wiesenthal, III, age 73, of Milton, Kentucky, entered this life on June 18, 1950, in Chicago, Illinois, the beloved son of Edward Wiesenthal Jr. and Katherine Holdenberg Wiesenthal. Ed passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:38 pm at the Thornton Terrace Health Campus in Hanover, Indiana.

Edward will be missed by his loving wife: Laura Lizotte Wiesenthal of Milton, KY; his loving sons, David Wiesenthal of Louisville, KY, Christopher Wiesenthal and his wife, April of Homewood, IL; his loving daughter, Tracy Spacucello and her husband, Jeff of Orland Hills, IL; His loving step daughter, Connie Durham of Madison, IN; his loving step son, Steven Joseph Lizotte, Jr. of Milton, KY; his loving grandchildren, Brittany, Brittney (Dylan), Mackenzie, Kacey, Gianna, Dominic, Karyna (Jose), Bryce, Dylan, Andrew and Blake; his beloved great grandchildren, Mateo, Brody and Blaire; his loving brother, Mark Wiesenthal of Tinley Park, IL; his loving sisters, Donna Wiesenthal of Harvey, IL and Myra Bass of New Mexico. He was preceded in death by his parents: Edward, Jr. and Katherine Holdenberg Wiesenthal; his brothers: Larry Cooley and Michael Cooley and his brother in law: Ken Bass.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 17, 2023, by at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison. A committal ceremony follow in St. Patrick Cemetery in Madison, Indiana at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Madison Lions Club or the Milton Christian Church. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Mary Alice Jewell Simmons

Mary Alice Jewell Simmons, age 87, of Lamb, Indiana entered this life on November 27, 1936 in Madison, Indiana. She was the loving daughter of the late Daniel Boone and Alice Bernice Woodfill Jewell. She resided all of her life in the Lamb Community in Switzerland County. She graduated high school in 1954 and began a career with the Madison Bank and Trust Company as a teller and customer service for over 40 years. On June 2, 1960, Mary was united in marriage to James E. "Jimmy" Simmons at the Brooksburg Baptist Church in Brooksburg, Indiana. This happy union of 58 years was blessed with nieces and nephews that brought much joy to their lives. After her retirement with Madison Bank and Trust Company she began working as a secretary for Tom Dattilo Law Office in Madison working there for six years. She was a member of the Union Baptist Church in Lamb where she was baptized by Pastor Mike Barnes. She also held membership in the Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Madison VFW Post No. 1969 Auxiliary. Mary in her spare-time could be found working in her flowers beds, her gardens, reading her Bible and being with her beloved family. Mary died on Friday, December 15, 2023, at 5 a.m. at her home in Lamb, Indiana.

Mary will be missed by her loving nephews, Timothy D. Jewell and his wife, Sherri of Lamb, IN, Wes Seel of Hanover, IN; her loving nieces, Erin Brunck and her husband, Mark of Madison, IN, {span}Kimberly {/span} Truman and her husband, Ralph of Madison, IN; her care-giver, Shannon Konkle of Lexington, IN; her great niece and her great nephews, Alexis Brunck, Craig Copeland, and Kristian-Seel; several great great nieces and great great nephews and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her father, Daniel Boone Jewell; her mother, Alice Bernice Woodfill Jewell; her brother and sister in law, William Boone "Bill" Jewell, and his wife, Mary Lena Jewell; her sister and brother in law Thelma F. Seel, and her husband, Larry; her husband of nearly 58 years, James E. "Jimmy" Simmons, died January 5, 2018, and her beloved nephew, Steve Daniel Jewell.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 1 p.m., by Pastor Mike Barnes at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre. Interment will follow in the Grandview Memorial Gardens, 9306 North U.S. 421 near Madison, Indiana.

Friends may visit Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana.

DEATH

FROM **PAGE A3**

Larry Maxwell, 78, of Wheatley, KY, died Friday Dec. 15, 2023, at his home. Funeral Services will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, KY, with burial in the Dallasburg Wheatley Cemetery in Wheatley, www.tandyeckler rileyfuneralhome.com.

James Earl Smitley, 73, of Lexington, IN, died Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at his home. Arrangements will be announced by the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres in Madison, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Mary Ellen Wilder, 78, of Bennington, IN, died Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, at St. Elizabeth Dearborn Hospital in Lawrenceburg, IN. Graveside services were Dec. 8 at New Liberty Cemetery in East Enterprise, IN. Arrangements by Markland Funeral Home of Rising Sun, IN, www.marklandfuneralhome.com.

Danny L. Wise, 71, of Bedford, KY, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023. Cremation was chosen and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Heady-Radcliffe Funeral Home & Cremation Services, La Grange, KY, www.heady-radcliffe funeralhome.com.

Shop with a Firefighter

Photos by Bob Demaree

Fire trucks line up in front of Walmart for Shop with a Firefighter after firefighters raised $20,000 to provide Christmas gifts for children and families.

Jessica Ehrneiter, of North Madison 5 fire department, helps Carter Fields pick out pajamas during Shop with a Firefighter. Children were able to buy warm clothes and toys with funds the firefighters raise throughout the year. This year, $20,000 was raised.

LeTiscia Wilson (left) helps Mekhian McIntosh (center) and Major McIntosh during Shop with a Firefighter on Saturday. Wilson's husband, Tony, is a member of Fair Play Fire Company No. 1.

Beshear renews pitch for higher teacher pay

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear has renewed his pitch for greater investments in education to raise teacher pay and offer state-funded pre-K. His comments come as he turns his attention to the upcoming legislative session. Beshear was sworn in to a second term last week. The Democratic governor made repeated overtures Thursday to the Republican-dominated legislature, saying he wants to work with lawmakers. Looking ahead to the next session, Beshear stressed two of his biggest policy objectives — pay raises for public school employees and state funding for pre-K for 4-year-olds in Kentucky. The next legislative session begins in early January.

Gov. Andy Beshear

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear renewed his pitch Thursday for greater investments in education to raise teacher pay and offer state-funded pre-K as he turns his attention to the upcoming legislative session.

Two days after taking the oath of office for a second four-year term, the Democratic governor made repeated overtures to the Republican-dominated legislature, saying he wants to work with lawmakers.

"We've got a chance to do special things, to focus on Kentuckians' concerns when they wake up every morning — their job, the road that they're going to drive on, their kids' public school, whether they feel safe in their community," Beshear said at his weekly news conference.

Beshear's first term featured annual policy clashes with Republican lawmakers, though he noted that he also signed more than 600 bipartisan bills into law, including measures to legalize sports betting and medical marijuana and to expand early voting.

Looking ahead to the next legislative session that starts in early January, Beshear stressed two of his biggest policy objectives — hefty pay raises for school employees and state funded pre-K.

Beshear has proposed an 11% pay raise for teachers and all public school personnel, including bus drivers, janitors and cafeteria staff. He has previously said it would amount to the single largest raise for Kentucky public school educators in at least 40 years.

Such a raise is needed to make Kentucky more competitive with other states, the governor said. Kentucky ranks 44th nationally in average teacher starting pay and 40th in average teacher pay, he said.

"This isn't a red-or-a-blue issue," the governor said. "This is a public education issue. And I look forward to continuing conversations with the General Assembly and trying to work to be more competitive with the states around us. Remember, our job is to beat Indiana and not beat up on each other. And this is one area that we've got to come together on."

In what could be seen as a pitch to rural GOP lawmakers, Beshear noted that school districts are the largest or among the biggest employers in some rural Kentucky counties.

"What an 11% raise will do for local economies will be incredible," he said. "But it's also the right thing to do."

The governor also pressed for his plan to provide state-funded pre-K for all 4-year-olds in Kentucky. The proposal so far has made no headway in the legislature.

Beshear framed his proposal Thursday as as a way to tackle student learning loss.

"We talk about learning loss, rightfully," he said. "But the biggest area of learning loss is kids not showing up kindergarten ready and never catching up. Let's address it before it starts."

Learning loss blamed on the COVID-19 pandemic was a recurring issue in this year's campaign. Beshear scored a convincing victory over Republican challenger Daniel Cameron in the November election.

Statewide test scores released a few weeks ago showed Kentucky students made some improvement, especially in elementary schools, but education officials said considerable work remains to get back to pre-pandemic levels. Those struggles reflect a nationwide problem of lagging academic achievement.

Beshear, meanwhile, praised lawmakers for the steps they have taken to bolster support for public education, but said more can be done.

The two-year budget legislators passed last year funded full-day kindergarten and poured money into teacher pensions and infrastructure. They increased the state's main funding formula — known as SEEK — for K-12 schools, but the amount was considerably less than what Beshear proposed.

Lawmakers will craft the state's next biennial budget during the 2024 session.

Flooding drives millions to move

BY MICHAEL PHILLIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — Flooding is driving millions of people to move out of their homes, limiting growth in some prospering communities and accelerating the decline of others, according to a new study that details how climate change and flooding are transforming where Americans live.

In the first two decades of the 21st century, the threat of flooding convinced more than 7 million people to avoid risky areas or abandon places that were risky, according to a paper Monday in the journal Nature Communications and research by the risk analysis organization First Street Foundation.

Climate change is making bad hurricanes more intense and increasing the amount of rain that storms dump on the Midwest. And in the coming decades, researchers say millions more people will decide it is too much to live with and leave.

First Street found that climate change is creating winners and losers at the neighborhood and block level.

Zoom out to consider the whole country and Americans appear to be ignoring the threat of climate change when they decide where to live. Florida, vulnerable to rising seas and strong storms, is growing fast, for example. But that misses an important way people behave locally. Most moves are short distance; people stay near family, friends and jobs.

Jeremy Porter, head of research at First Street, said "there's more to the story" than population gains in Sun Belt states.

"People want to live in Miami. If you live in Miami already, you're not going to say, 'Oh, this property is a 9 (out of 10 for flood risk), let me move to Denver,' " Porter said. "They are going to say, 'This property is a 9, but I want to live in Miami, so I'm going to look for a 6 or a 7 or a 5 in Miami.' You are going to think about relative risk."

That's what First Street projects over the next three decades: blocks in Miami with a high chance of getting hit by a bad storm are more likely to see their population drop even though a lot of the city is expected to absorb more people.

Behind these findings is very detailed data about flood risk, population trends and the reasons people move, allowing researchers to isolate the impact of flooding even though local economic conditions and other factors motivate families to pick up and live somewhere else. They analyzed population changes in very small areas, down to the census block.

Some blocks have grown fast and would have grown even faster if flooding wasn't a problem, according to First Street. Expanding but flood-prone places could have grown nearly 25% more — attracting about 4.1 million more people — if that risk were lower. Researchers also identified areas where flood risk is driving or worsening population decline, which they called "climate abandonment areas." About 3.2 million people left these neighborhoods because of flood risk over a two-decade span.

When First Street projected out to 2053, many of the new climate abandonment areas were in Michigan, Indiana and other parts of the Midwest. Flood risk is just one factor driving this change and it doesn't mean communities are emptying out, said Philip Mulder, a professor focused on risk and insurance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"People can live in smarter places within those communities. That's just as true for Detroit as it is for Miami," he said.

When people know a home is prone to flooding, they are less likely to buy it. Some states, however, don't require that flood history be disclosed, according to Joel Scata, a senior attorney on the Natural Resources Defense Council's climate adaptation team.

"Access to good information is really important in the real estate market," Scata said.

Even for people who get assistance to move, the choice can be excruciating. Socastee, a community near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, flooded not only when hurricanes hit, but sometimes just when it rained hard and water would reach doorways and saturate yards. First Street's data says Horry County won't grow quite as fast over the next three decades because of flood risk.

One resident who endured repeated flooding said it "makes you sick" with worry whenever it storms and rips away your sense of security.

Terri Straka decided to move from the area but had a hard time convincing her parents to do the same. Eventually, she brought them to a house for sale and said it could be their dream home. They reluctantly agreed to move.

"Them being able to visualize what a future might look like is absolutely critical to people being able to move. They have to imagine a place and it needs to be a real place that they can afford," said Harriet Festing, executive director of Anthropocene Alliance that supports communities like Socastee hit by disaster and climate change.

Shop with a Firefighter

Photos by Bob Demaree

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney takes his turn making Christmas wishes to Santa Claus at Madison Elks Lodge No. 524.

Elks Lodge members Ron Hopper (left) and Scott Tebbe volunteer as elves during the Elks celebration with Shop with a Firefighter. Madison Elks Lodge No. 524 provided food baskets, breakfast and lunch, and more for the children who participated in the event. Moose Lodge 765 provided pizza.

Madison Fire Chief Kenny Washer beams with joy during Shop with a Firefighter on Saturday. A total of 93 children were served during the event.

Lawyers for woman seeking abortion withdraw lawsuit

BY DYLAN LOVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Attorneys for a Kentucky woman who sued demanding the right to an abortion withdrew the lawsuit after the woman learned her embryo no longer has cardiac activity.

In a court filing Sunday, the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky told a judge the attorneys will "voluntarily dismiss" the lawsuit that was filed Dec. 8.

Lawyers for the woman pointed to a Kentucky Supreme Court decision that said abortion providers cannot sue on behalf of their patients, limiting the legal actions to individuals seeking an abortion. The lawsuit had sought class-action status.

"The court's decision has forced Kentuckians seeking abortion to bring a lawsuit while in the middle of seeking time-sensitive health care, a daunting feat, and one that should not be necessary to reclaim the fundamental right to control their own bodies," the ACLU of Kentucky said in a release Monday. The attorneys said they would continue to look for possible plaintiffs.

The case — Jane Doe, et al. v. Daniel Cameron, et al. — was filed on behalf of an anonymous woman who was about eight weeks pregnant. Last week, just a few days after the suit was filed, lawyers sent notice that the embryo has no cardiac activity.

The flurry of individual women petitioning a court for permission for an abortion is the latest development since Roe v. Wade was overturned last year by the U.S. Supreme Court.

JAIL

FROM PAGE A1

The suit stems from an ongoing issue that occurred when construction of the jail began with Dupont Water Company stating that it believes the new jail, which is located in the city's buffer zone, is in its service area.

At the BPWS meeting, Courtney stated, "As the new Jefferson County jail is nearing its completion and have started the transition of moving its administrative offices to the new jail, I believe there probably is going to be the potential for delay for moving inmates from downtown to that facility because an ongoing lawsuit with the Dupont Water Company. They've sued the city of Madison claiming we don't have the right to provide water services to the jail, so that's a dispute. We hope that there's an amicable outcome there as well, but unless something happens it will certainly delay a full transition of utilizing the new Jefferson County jail until all parties can reach an agreement on that."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Salvation Army Food Bank

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Noon to 1 p.m.

331 East Main St., Madison

A food giveaway at the red door on east side of building. Bring your own bags. For more information, call 812-265-2157.

House of Hope Food Pantry

100 East Second St., Madison

Tuesdays — 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Fridays — 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

A food giveaway and distribution at the Jefferson County House of Hope Food Pantry in downtown Madison. Please arrive at the pantry 15 minutes prior to closing to be served.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS

Jesus Clothes Closet

Trinity Methodist Church, Madison

Mondays — 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Jesus Clothes Closet at Trinity Methodist Church, 412 W. Main St., will distribute free clothing for those in need each Monday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more info call 812-866-4843.

SENIOR EVENTS

Madison Senior Citizens Center

208 West Main Street

Senior Meals

Lifetime Resources will be providing congregate meals again at the Madison Senior Center starting in November on Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Suggested donation is $6 and there will be a trial run on Oct 24.

Game Days

The Madison Senior Citizens Center hosts weekly card days and Bingo at the Senior Citizens Center in downtown Madison. The schedule includes Euchre on Mondays and Thursdays from noon until 10 games are completed and Bingo on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The games are free and open to senior citizens.

HANOVER SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Hanover Park Community Center

Exercising

The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is offering free exercising at the Hanover Park Community Center on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Lunch

The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is serving lunch at noon on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Hanover Park Community Center. Cost is $5 and RSVP is required by calling 812-498-2894.

VISIT US ONLINE
www.madisoncourier.com

BEETLE BAILEY

I EAT TOO MUCH WHEN I GET STRESSED OUT
GREG + MORT WALKER
YOU SHOULD TRY TO RELAX MORE
I EAT TOO MUCH WHEN I DO THAT, TOO
DR. BONKUS
12/19
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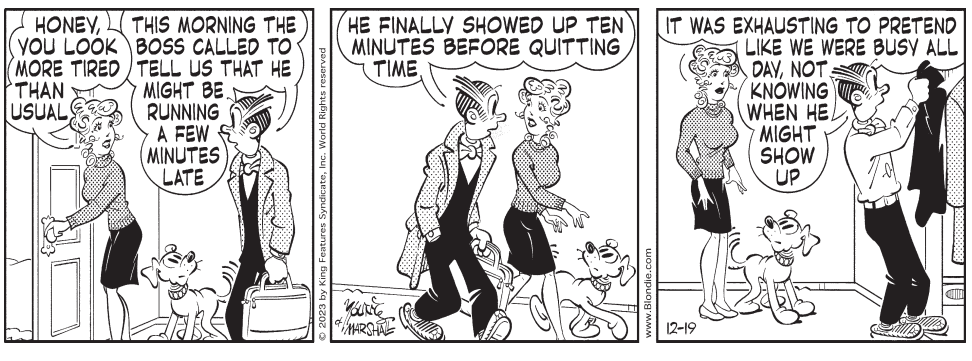
BLONDIE


HONEY, YOU LOOK MORE TIRED THAN USUAL
THIS MORNING THE BOSS CALLED TO TELL US THAT HE MIGHT BE RUNNING A FEW MINUTES LATE
HE FINALLY SHOWED UP TEN MINUTES BEFORE QUITTING TIME
IT WAS EXHAUSTING TO PRETEND LIKE WE WERE BUSY ALL DAY, NOT KNOWING WHEN HE MIGHT SHOW UP
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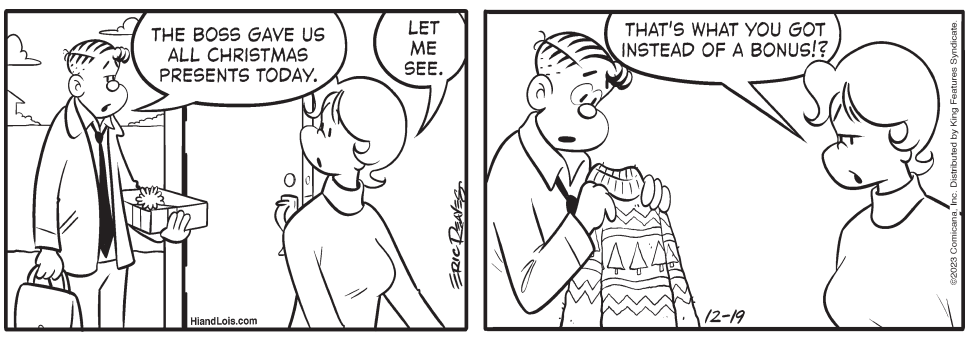
www.Blondie.com
12-19

HI & LOIS


THE BOSS GAVE US ALL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS TODAY.
LET ME SEE.
Eric Bonsall
HiandLois.com
THAT'S WHAT YOU GOT INSTEAD OF A BONUS!?
12-19
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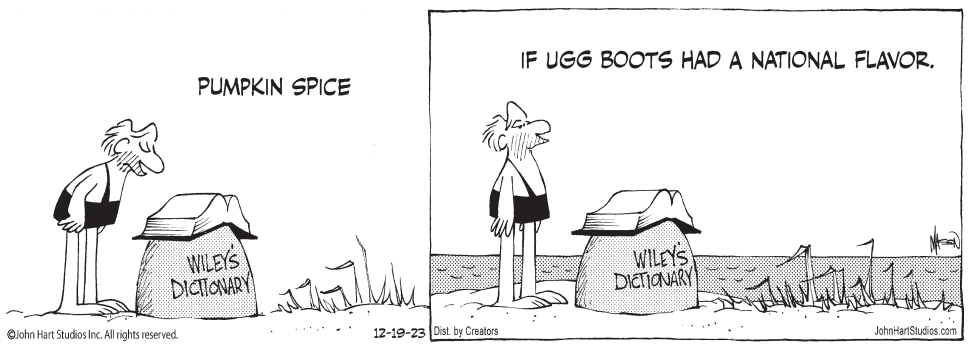
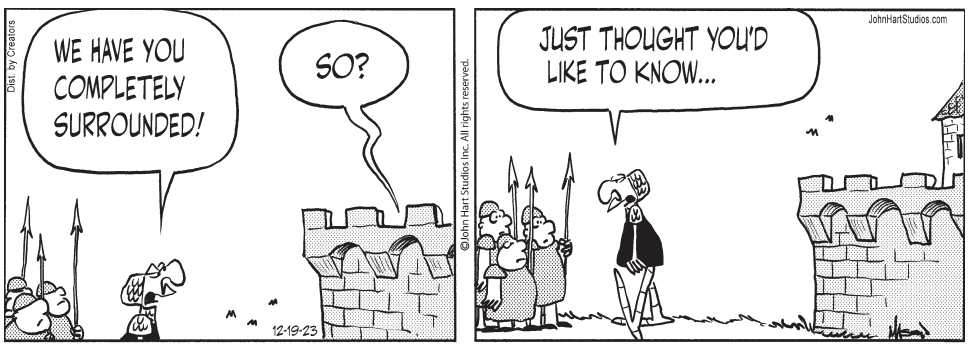
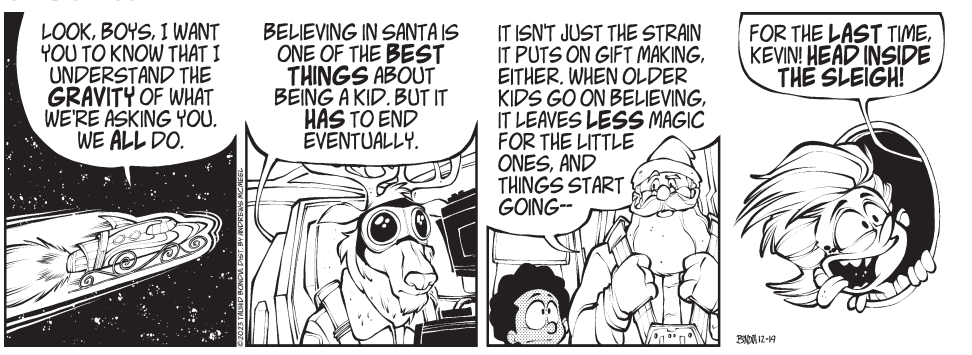
BC



WIZARD OF ID



CRABGRASS


LOOK, BOYS, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF WHAT WE'RE ASKING YOU. WE ALL DO.
BELIEVING IN SANTA IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING A KID. BUT IT HAS TO END EVENTUALLY.
IT ISN'T JUST THE STRAIN IT PUTS ON GIFT MAKING, EITHER. WHEN OLDER KIDS GO ON BELIEVING, IT LEAVES LESS MAGIC FOR THE LITTLE ONES, AND THINGS START GOING--
FOR THE LAST TIME, KEVIN! HEAD INSIDE THE SLEIGH!
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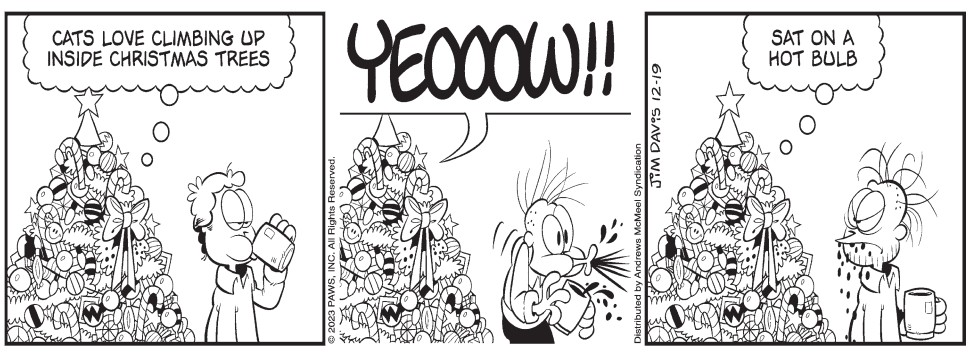
12-19

GARFIELD


CATS LOVE CLIMBING UP INSIDE CHRISTMAS TREES
YEOOOW!!
SAT ON A HOT BULB
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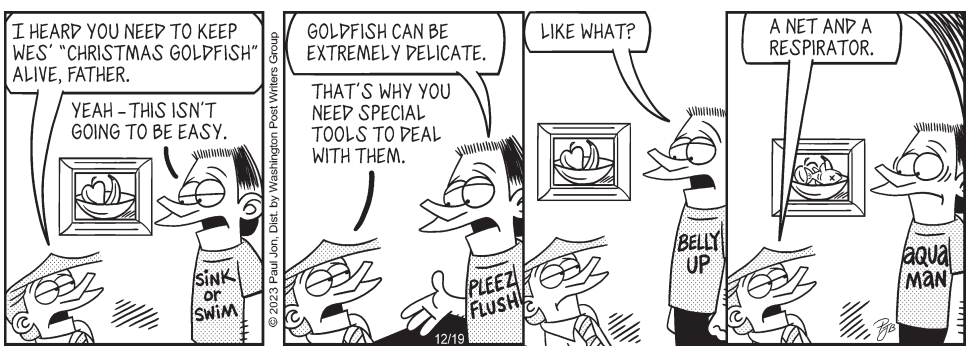
JIM DAVIS 12-19

FORT KNOX


I HEARD YOU NEED TO KEEP WES' "CHRISTMAS GOLDFISH" ALIVE, FATHER.
YEAH – THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY.
SINK or SWIM
GOLDFISH CAN BE EXTREMELY DELICATE.
THAT'S WHY YOU NEED SPECIAL TOOLS TO DEAL WITH THEM.
PLEEZ FLUSH
12/19
LIKE WHAT?
BELLY UP
A NET AND A RESPIRATOR.
AQUA MAN
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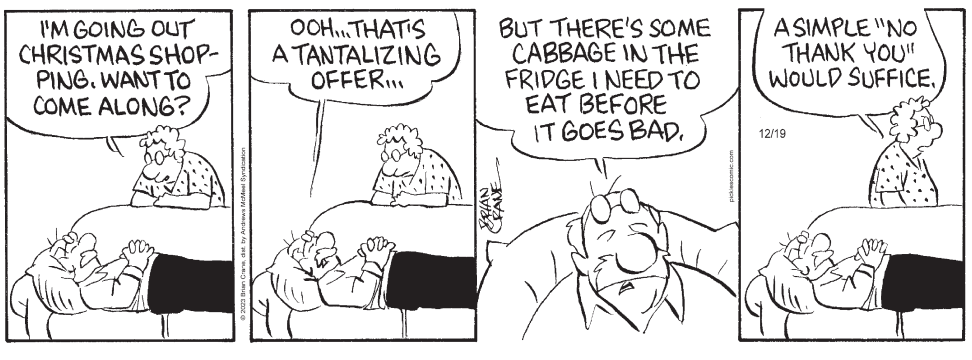
PICKLES


I'M GOING OUT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING. WANT TO COME ALONG?
OOH...THAT'S A TANTALIZING OFFER...
BUT THERE'S SOME CABBAGE IN THE FRIDGE I NEED TO EAT BEFORE IT GOES BAD.
A SIMPLE "NO THANK YOU" WOULD SUFFICE.
12/19
KEVAN ATTEBERY
picklescomic.com
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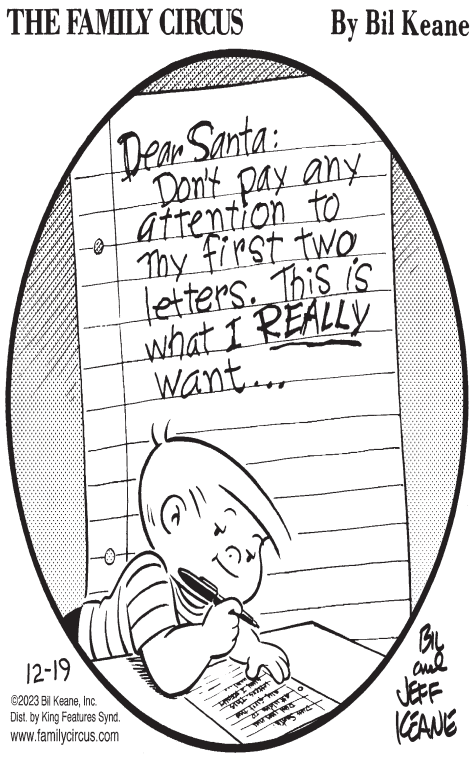
FAMILY CIRCUS


THE FAMILY CIRCUS
By Bil Keane
Dear Santa: Don't pay any attention to my first two letters. This is what I REALLY want...
12-19
©2023 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com
BIL and JEFF KEANE

DENNIS THE MENACE

© 2023 by North America Synd.
12-19
"I TOLD MOM AND DAD WE CAN'T GO TO GRAMPA'S FOR CHRISTMAS 'CAUSE SANTA WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO DELIVER MY PRESENTS!"

BABY BLUES

I'LL GIVE YOU HALF OF MY SANDWICH FOR THAT BAG OF CHIPS.
OKAY, BUT I ALSO GET YOUR PUDDING AND A FRUIT TO BE NAMED LATER.
THROW IN TWO BITES OF A FUTURE TWINKIE, AND...
R-R-R-I-I-I-N-G!
SHOOT. LUNCH IS OVER, AND WE NEVER ATE.
NO FOOD FIGHTS!
©2023, BABY BLUES BOOS LLC. DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION. 12-19
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

CURTIS

BARRY, CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE... ARE YOU EXCITED?
YES!
DID YOU GET THE CHANCE TO VISIT SANTA YET?
A WHILE AGO
I SAW HIM AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE THE DAY AFTER HALLOWEEN
SOMETIMES I FORGET HOW EARLY THEY START ADVERTISING THIS PARTICULAR HOLIDAY
12-19
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ZITS

I THINK MOM WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME BACKYARD CHICKENS.
NO. NO...
...NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO.
WHAT DOES YOUR DAD THINK ABOUT THE IDEA?
NO!
HE'S CONSIDERING IT.
ZITSCOMICS.COM
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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice. (Clinton was subsequently acquitted by the Senate.)

On this date:

In 1777, during the American Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania.

In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

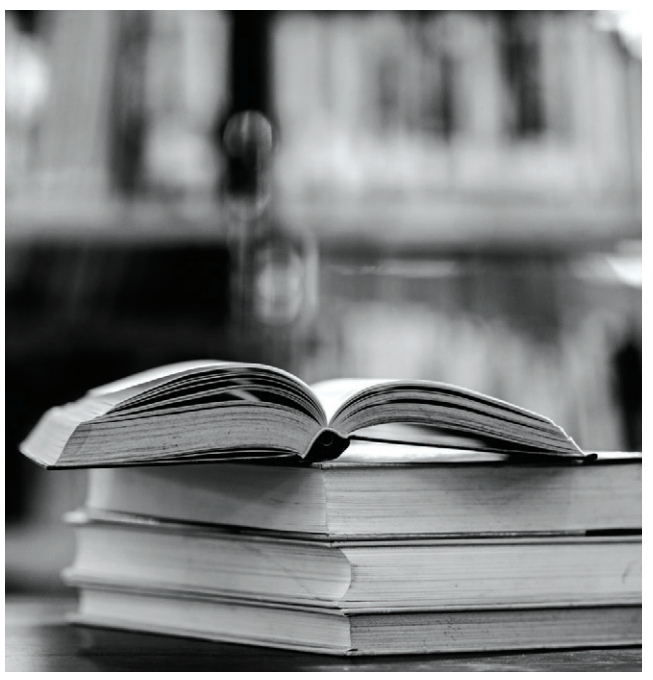
In 1950, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In 1960, fire broke out on the hangar deck of the nearly completed aircraft carrier USS Constellation at the New York Naval Shipyard; 50 civilian workers were killed.

In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, winding up the Apollo program of manned lunar landings.

In 2001, the fires that had burned beneath the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York City for the previous three months were declared extinguished except for a few scattered hot spots.

In 2003, design plans were unveiled for the signature skyscraper — a 1,776-foot glass tower — at the site of the World Trade Center in New York City.



In 2008, citing imminent danger to the national economy, President George W. Bush ordered an emergency bailout of the U.S. auto industry.

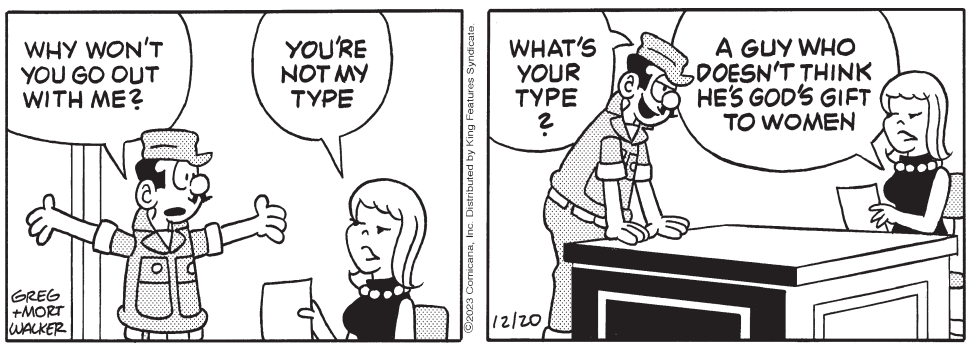
In 2011, North Korea announced the death two days earlier of leader Kim Jong Il; North Koreans marched by the thousands to mourn their "Dear Leader" while state media proclaimed his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, a "Great Successor."

In 2016, a truck rammed into a crowded Christmas market in central Berlin, killing 12 people in an attack claimed by Islamic State. (The suspected attacker was killed in a police shootout four days later.)

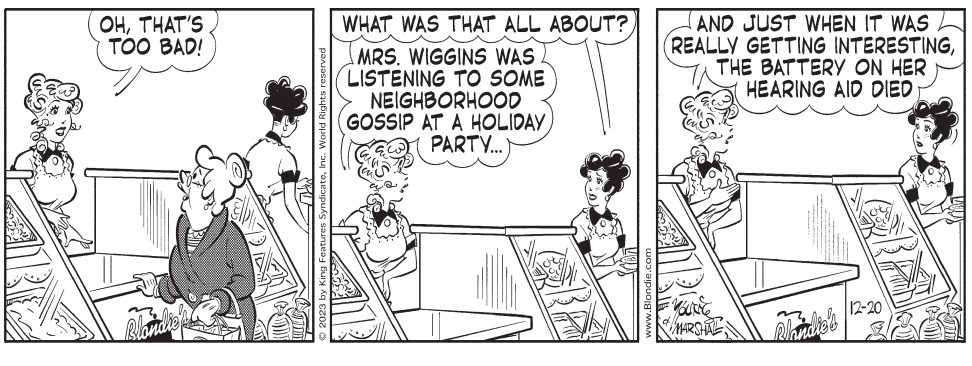
In 2022, the House Jan. 6 committee urged the Justice Department to bring criminal charges against former President Donald Trump for the violent 2021 Capitol insurrection, calling for accountability for the former president and "a time of reflection and reckoning."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Elaine Joyce is 80. Actor Tim Reid is 79. Musician John McEuen is 78. Singer Janie Fricke is 76. Jazz musician Lenny White is 74. Actor Mike Lookinland is 63. Actor Scott Cohen is 62. Actor Jennifer Beals is 60. Actor Robert MacNaughton is 57. Magician Criss Angel is 56. Rock musician Klaus Eichstadt (Ugly Kid Joe) is 56. Actor Ken Marino is 55. Actor Elvis Nolasco is 55. Actor Kristy Swanson is 54. Model Tyson Beckford is 53. Actor Amy Locane is 52. Pro Football Hall of Famer Warren Sapp is 51. Actor Rosa Blasi is 51. Actor Alyssa Milano is 51. Actor Tara Summers is 44. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal is 43. Actor Marla Sokoloff is 43. Rapper Lady Sovereign is 38. Journalist Ronan Farrow is 36. Actor Nik Dodani is 30.

BEETLE BAILEY


WHY WON'T YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE
GREG + MORT WALKER
©2023 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
WHAT'S YOUR TYPE?
A GUY WHO DOESN'T THINK HE'S GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN
12/20

BLONDIE


OH, THAT'S TOO BAD!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
MRS. WIGGINS WAS LISTENING TO SOME NEIGHBORHOOD GOSSIP AT A HOLIDAY PARTY...
AND JUST WHEN IT WAS REALLY GETTING INTERESTING, THE BATTERY ON HER HEARING AID DIED
12-20
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www.Blondie.com

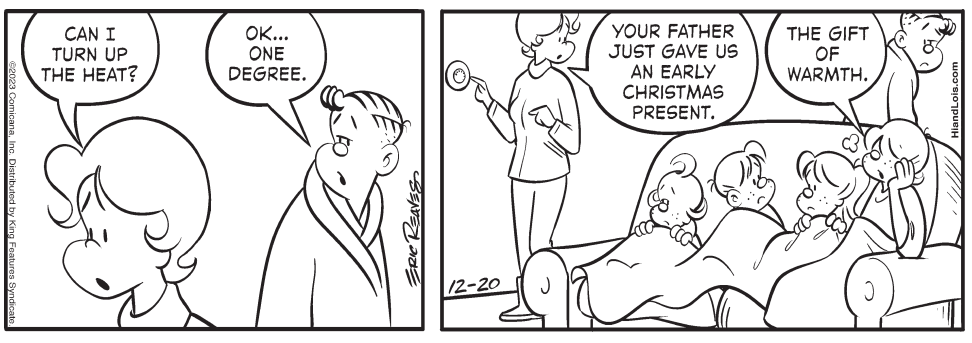
FAMILY CIRCUS

"Wow! Morrie was born on December 24th! He missed bein' Baby Jesus by that much!"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"WHATSAMATTER, SANTA? LOOKS LIKE YOU LOST THAT JOLLY FEELING."

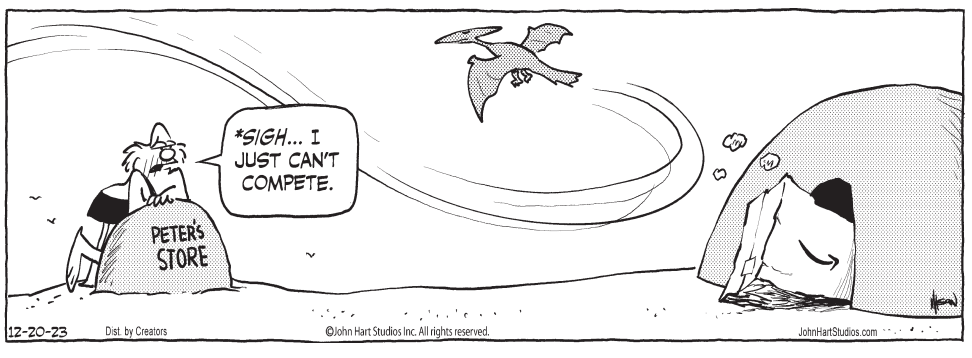
HI & LOIS


CAN I TURN UP THE HEAT?
OK... ONE DEGREE.
©2023 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
ERIC REASER
YOUR FATHER JUST GAVE US AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
THE GIFT OF WARMTH.
HIandLois.com
12-20

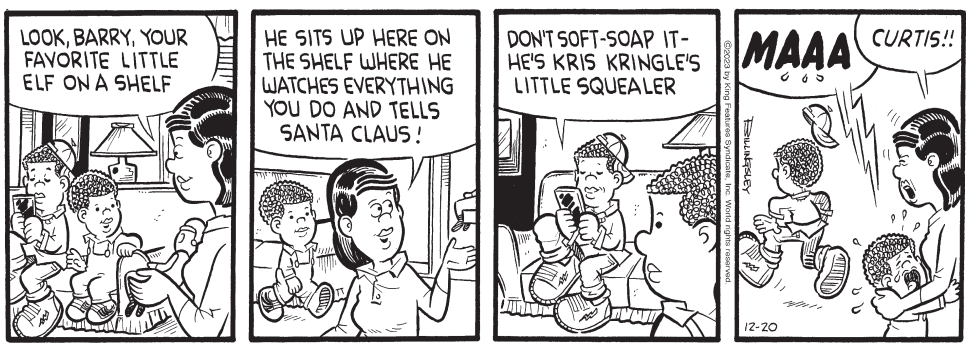
BABY BLUES

DZOO DZOO DZOO DZOO DZO
WHAT IS THAT??
babiesblues.com
I TRADED TRENT MY PEANUT BUTTER AND HONEY SANDWICH FOR THIS KAZOO!
DID YOU RINSE IT OFF?
©2023, BABY BLUES SERVICE, LLC. DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION 12-20
SHOULD I? THE DITCH WE FOUND IT IN WAS PRETTY CLEAN.
ICK! ICK! ICK! ICK! ICK! ICK!
HARMAN & SCOTT

BC



CURTIS


LOOK, BARRY, YOUR FAVORITE LITTLE ELF ON A SHELF
HE SITS UP HERE ON THE SHELF WHERE HE WATCHES EVERYTHING YOU DO AND TELLS SANTA CLAUS!
DON'T SOFT-SOAP IT- HE'S KRIS KRINGLE'S LITTLE SQUEALER
MAAA
CURTIS!!
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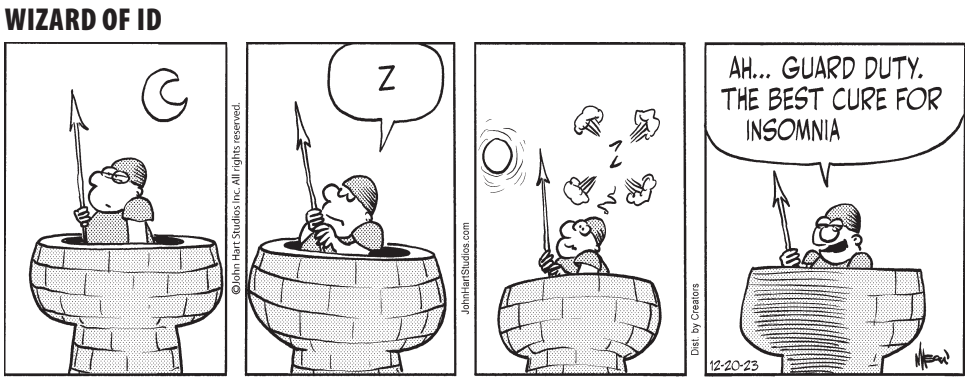
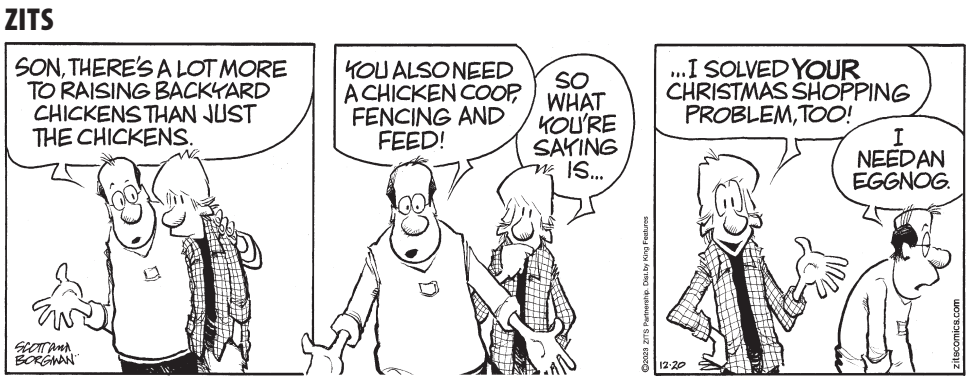
12-20

WIZARD OF ID



ZITS


SON, THERE'S A LOT MORE TO RAISING BACKYARD CHICKENS THAN JUST THE CHICKENS.
YOU ALSO NEED A CHICKEN COOP, FENCING AND FEED!
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS...
...I SOLVED YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING PROBLEM, TOO!
I NEED AN EGGNOG.
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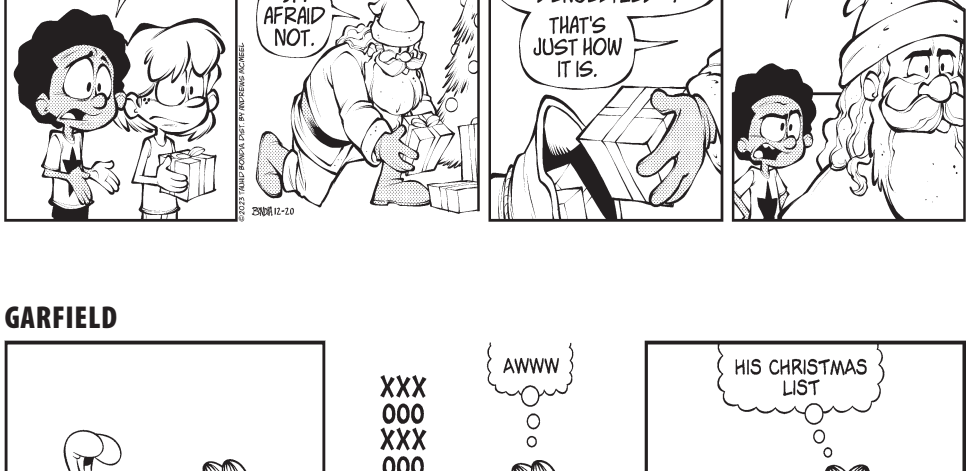
CRABGRASS


ISN'T THERE ANY WAY WE CAN KEEP BELIEVING IN YOU, SANTA?
YEAH, YOU'RE THE BOSS. CAN'T YOU FUDGE THE RULES?
I'M AFRAID NOT.
ONCE A CHILD REACHES THE AGE OF ELEVEN, THEY EITHER OUTGROW BELIEVING IN ME OR GET DENOELYZED™.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.
HOLD UP, WHAT AGE?
© 2023 FAULKNER-KOMOTA, FIST BY ANDREWS MCMEEL
12-20

GARFIELD

FORT KNOX

MOM, I CAN'T WAIT TILL I GET MY GOLDFISH FOR CHRISTMAS!
I KNOW, SWEETIE...
BUT WE'LL HAVE TO SEE IF SANTA CAN BRING THE FISH ON HIS SLEIGH.
IF SANTA DOESN'T BRING ME A GOLDFISH, WHO WILL?
THE GRIM REAPER.
12/20
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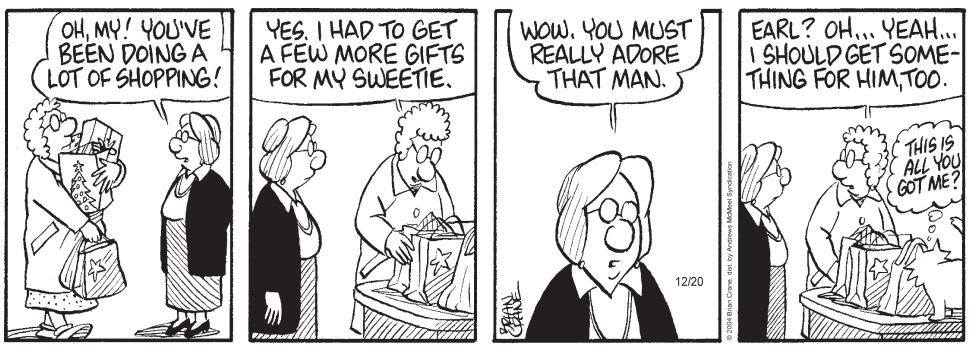
PICKLES


OH, MY! YOU'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF SHOPPING!
YES. I HAD TO GET A FEW MORE GIFTS FOR MY SWEETIE.
WOW. YOU MUST REALLY ADORE THAT MAN.
EARL? OH... YEAH... I SHOULD GET SOMETHING FOR HIM, TOO.
THIS IS ALL YOU GOT ME?
12/20
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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

On this date:

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Georgia, as Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman nearly completed his "March to the Sea."

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of wartime tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

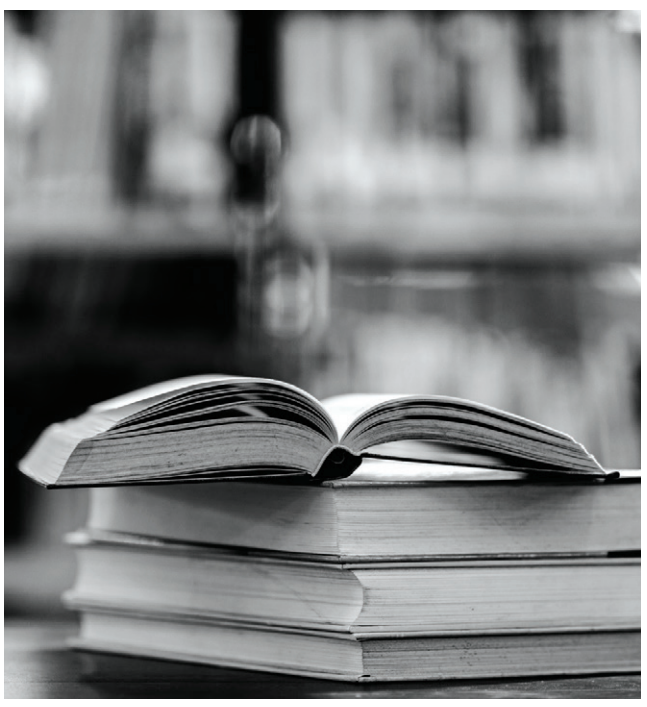
In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Doña Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1995, an American Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia, slammed into a mountain, killing all but four of the 163 people aboard.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that gay couples were entitled to the same benefits as wedded heterosexual couples.



In 2001, the U.N. Security Council authorized a multinational force for Afghanistan.

In 2002, Trent Lott resigned as Senate Republican leader two weeks after igniting a political firestorm with racially charged remarks.

In 2005, a federal judge ruled that "intelligent design" could not be mentioned in biology classes in a Pennsylvania public school district, delivering a stinging attack on the Dover Area School Board.

In 2016, President Barack Obama designated the bulk of U.S.-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain areas in the Atlantic Ocean as indefinitely off limits to future oil and gas leasing.

In 2017, Cardinal Bernard Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston, died in Rome at the age of 86; his failure to stop child molesters in the priesthood had triggered a crisis in American Catholicism.

Today's Birthdays: Original Mouseketeer Tommy Cole (TV: "The Mickey Mouse Club") is 82. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 79. Rock musician Peter Criss is 78. Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue is 77. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 77. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 77. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 75. Actor Jenny Agutter is 71. Actor Michael Badalucco is 69. Actor Blanche Baker is 67. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 66. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, Firehose) is 66. Actor Joel Gretsch is 60. Country singer Kris Tyler is 59. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 57. Actor Nicole deBoer is 53. Movie director Todd Phillips is 53. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 41. Actor Jonah Hill is 40. Actor Bob Morley is 39. Singer JoJo is 33. Actor Colin Woodell is 32.

LAUNCH

FROM **PAGE A1**

The college will initiate accreditation procedures with the Higher Learning Commission and the American Veterinary Medical Council on Education (AVMA COE) in 2024. The two-year process will require consultative site visits, self-study and comprehensive site visit. Student recruitment may begin during accreditation. The first cohort will include 80 students with each subsequent class expanding to 100 students per cohort by the third year. Full capacity will include a maximum total enrollment of 300 DVM students.

Kay Stokes, special assistant to the President for Accreditation and External Relations at Hanover College, noted that the college is well positioned to attract students nationally who prefer an intimate, rural, small-college setting. There are only 33 doctor of veterinary programs in the United States and just one DVM program and veterinary nursing program in Indiana. Regionally, the closest veterinary programs are Purdue University, Ohio University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. There are no accredited DVM programs in Kentucky.

Currently, more than 10,000 qualified students apply to accredited veterinary programs each year with fewer than 5,000 seats available in the United States. "Many qualified candidates who want to be veterinarians have to go abroad to seek a veterinary education," said Lambert. "This is a tremendous loss of talent for Indiana so our program creates a great opportunity to attract and retain more talent to Indiana."

The program that Hanover College will offer is different than the 2+2 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program that was originally planned in which students would spend the first two years of the four-year degree on Hanover's campus, taking basic science and patient care courses, and then undertaking two years of clinical training through Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California.

Instead, Hanover College is going on its own and has established its own program without Western University that's now under the auspices of the college while still maintaining the collaboration with Ivy Tech Madison. "We're going to do this one ourselves. We're all very excited," Stokes said.

The new model is a hybrid approach to veterinary education that will follow guidelines set by the Higher Learning Commission and AVMA COE, featuring a blend of online lectures and discussions along with centralized laboratory and regional clinical experiences. Students will complete the curriculum in three years which increases accessibility and reduces debt.

The college's year-round program will be separated into nine semesters. During the first four semesters, the curriculum will include animal anatomy and physiology, clinical communication and simulation-oriented surgical and medical skills. The fifth and sixth semesters will focus on field-based clinical courses and patient care. Students will be placed into intensive clinical rotations throughout the seventh, eighth and ninth semesters.

The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program will be Hanover College's third doctoral-level offering along with a Doctor of Physical Therapy program in 2021 and the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program that will begin classes in January.

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy doctorate programs paved the way for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. "We've learned a lot in launching our other graduate programs, so we feel like we can have the expertise and ability to do this," said Stokes.

When Hanover College launched its Doctor of Physical Therapy program, it was the first time in more than 100 years that the college with a strong liberal arts undergraduate tradition had offered a doctoral-level degree. Prior to that, Hanover College's last doctorate offering was when it provided Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Literature and Doctor of Science from 1893-1915.

The decision to again offer doctorate opportunities at Hanover College is because of a change in demographics for college age students. There is a declining number among 18-22 year olds and fewer of them are going to college. "Our heart is in undergraduate liberal arts education but we have to expand," said Stokes, noting it was Hanover College's strong sciences programs that has led to the creation of doctoral programs in physical therapy, occupational therapy and veterinarian medicine.

"We are like a lot of other colleges today," said Stokes. "We want to honor our liberal arts origins, and we want to support undergraduate faculty and have strong undergraduate faculty. This is a way of doing that."

Stokes said what's happening now "dates back to strategic planning work we did seven or eight years ago" and now it's starting to come to fruition. "It takes a long time to launch an academic program. You have to get faculty to agree to it, and the trustees have to agree to it, then you have to get accreditor approval for the program, you have to hire faculty and staff, you have to design a curriculum, you have to recruit students and you then launch the program."

Hanover College's work on the veterinary medicine program began in 2019, seeking a Lilly grant to help get the program off the ground, but that funding didn't come through. "We still believed in this; that it is a good fit for Hanover, and plays so well with our rural location with our liberal arts focus and the needs for Indiana," said Stokes.

Hope for the program was revived through the state's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), when Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority which includes Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott and Washington counties, received the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's maximum award of $50 million with the region awarding $5.9 million of that to the veterinarian medicine program.

"READI program gave us the opportunity to pick the program back up and to revive the program," said Stokes.

The veterinarian medicine addresses a need with a significant shortage of livestock and public health veterinarians in rural areas, creating a substantial public policy concern due to implications for public health and food safety.

In 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared 237 rural veterinary shortage areas in 47 states, which is more than any year to date. Nearly half of Indiana's 92 counties are listed as underserved by the USDA and Indiana Board of Animal Health including much of southern Indiana. In Kentucky, 86 of 120 counties are facing a veterinarian shortage, according to the USDA.

Hanover College's veterinary medicine program will address the critical need for veterinary professionals, particularly in Indiana, which ranks in the top five nationally in turkey, hog, duck and egg production. Indiana also supports the nation's $27.8 billion pet care industry with the sixth highest percentage (69.2%) of pet owners in the nation, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Kentucky ranks 11th with 64.1%.

Even beyond the doctorate program in veterinary medicine, Stokes said it will strengthen Hanover College's undergraduate program while also creating more career paths. With Hanover College accredited in veterinarian medicine, the college will want to be certain the undergraduate program provides the requirements to allow those students to earn a place in the graduate veterinary program. "There could be someone who is not interested in veterinary medicine but wants to work in animal science. They could do a business degree with the vet nursing class, and maybe go into the business side of vet medicine."

Stokes anticipates Hanover College will be "pulling students from all over the nation" to be involved in the veterinary medicine program, along with students from this region. "We're going to be a net importer of veterinarian students to Indiana which is going to be exciting."

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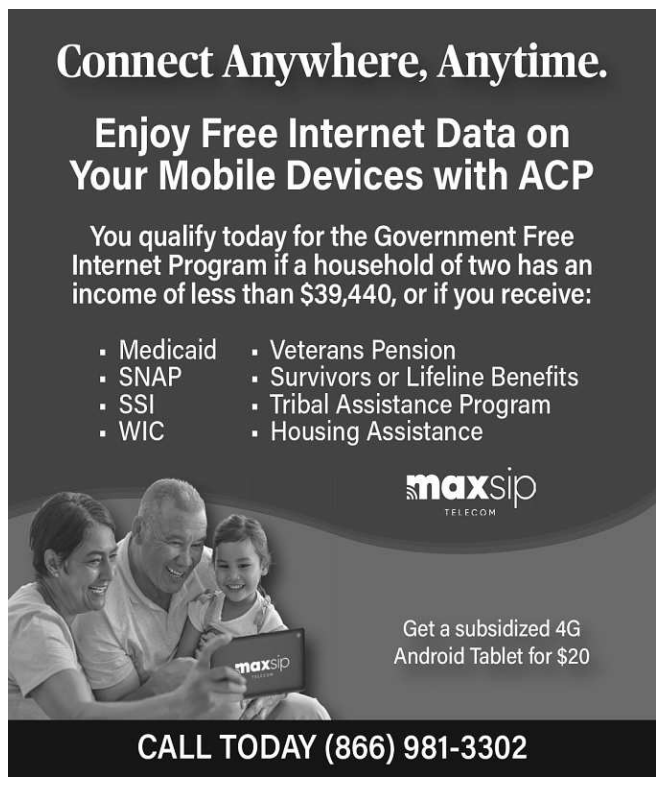
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5th-ranked Rebels keep rolling, beat JCD, Clarksville to remain unbeaten

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Jamison Lewis has been content to let his teammates do the scoring the past several games. But Southwestern needed their star senior to step up on Friday and he delivered.

Lewis scored a season-high 26 points to lead the Class 2A No. 5 Rebels to a 65-51 win over Jac-Cen-Del in an Ohio River Valley Conference showdown Friday at home. On Saturday, Southwestern had little trouble dispatching Clarksville on the road, winning 63-43 to improve to 7-0 on the season.

Peyton Cloud, Landon Kidwell and Brady Cook have done the bulk of the scoring for Southwestern in recent games, but against a stingy Jac-Cen-Del defense, Lewis shined. He was 10-of-17 from the floor, hit two of his four 3-point attempts and was 4-for-5 from the free-throw line. He also pulled down eight rebounds and dished out three assists while collecting three steals.

"Jamison Lewis put us on his back early. He was phenomenal in that first half," Southwestern coach Zac Nussbaum said of the performance on Friday. "Obviously, the defensive focus is going to be on him and we talked about how we just got to keep moving the ball and keep pushing the transition, try try to find the best shot, and I think we did a pretty good job."

Southwestern (7-0, 2-0 ORVC) jumped out to a 10-2 lead but it was never going to be that easy. Jac-Cen-Del quickly regrouped to pull within one and for the next two and a half quarters, it was a close game.

But thanks to Lewis, the Rebels were never in any real danger of losing the lead. Each time Jac-Cen-Del would mount a small run, Lewis was there to stop it. As a result, Southwestern took a 38-30 lead into halftime on the strength of 21 first-half points by Lewis.

"He's always going to be consistent for us," Nussbaum said. "We like to pride ourselves on really not being able to focus on one or two guys. Brady Cook's gonna have a game with 20, Peyton Cloud has an opportunity to do that. So there's gonna be different guys each night and I think what makes us really hard to guard."

The game was still relatively close heading into the fourth quarter with Southwestern up only 10 (54-44) but the Rebels quickly stretched out that lead. A layup by Cook, a 3-pointer from Lewis and two free throws by Adam Traylor staked Southwestern to a 65-59 cushion to ice the win.

Cook finished with 12 points for the Rebels while Cloud scored 11. Kidwell had only six points, but also pulled down eight rebounds.

Caleb White led Jac-Cen-Del with 16 points and Clark Dwenger had 12.

Saturday's game at Clarksville was never close with the Rebels pulling away early and rolling to the 20-point win. Kidwell's 18 points led the way with Cook scoring 13 points and Lewis adding 12.

SEE **REBELS/PAGE B8**

David Campbell

Southwestern's Jamison Lewis (33) splits Jac-Cen-Del defenders Caleb White (15) and Clark Dwenger on his way to the basket for two of his season-high 26 points in the fifth-ranked Rebels' 65-51 win on Friday.

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Late charge lifts Austin over Madison 72-61

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

AUSTIN — Ryder Jones hit a basket with 4:36 to play to pull Madison within one point in its matchup with Austin on Saturday. But the host Eagles outscored the Cubs 15-5 the rest of the way to claim a 72-61 win in boys basketball.

After trading the lead four times in the first quarter, Austin went ahead 11-9 on a Xander Richie basket with 2:50 to go in the frame and never trailed again. The Eagles led 13-9 after the first quarter, 27-21 at halftime and 51-40 after the third quarter.

Madison rallied quickly in the fourth when Landon True drained a 3-pointer to cut the lead to eight, and, after an Austin basket, Oscar Gonzalez and Quincy Reynolds each hit baskets and True connected on a three-point play. After a turnover, Jones hit a layup in the lane to cut the Austin lead to 57-56.

Austin never flinched. Brooks Swank scored eight-straight points for the Eagles — six at the free-throw line — Kolten Mayse had a basket and Brayden Furnish hit two free throws to push Austin's lead to 13 (69-56), its largest of the game. Madison scored five points in the final minute, but the damage was done.

Austin (2-5) ended up shooting 54% (23-for-43) from the floor in the game, including 21-for-26 at the free-throw line and 5-of-14 from the arc. Madison, meanwhile, hit at 44% (23-for-52) and 7-of-10 from the line, but was just 8-of-28 on 3-pointers. The Cubs also had 20 turnovers to 16 by the Eagles.

True finished the game with a career-high 26 points on 9-of-17 shooting. Reynolds had 20 points and eight rebounds.

Swank was 11-for-12 at the line and scored 24 points to lead Austin. He also had 11 rebounds and seven steals. Richie scored 17 points, Mayse had 13 and Furnish added 10.

Photos by David Campbell

Madison's Landon True (3) shoots a 3-pointer as Austin's Brooks Swank (33) closes in during Saturday's game in Austin.

Madison's Quincy Reynolds (12) shoots in traffic during the Cubs' 72-61 loss at Austin on Saturday.

Madison, now 1-4 on the season, turns its attention to the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament, which the Cubs will host starting on Friday. Madison faces Shawe at 4:50 p.m. in its first game and then will play Trimble County at 8:30 p.m. in its final pool play game. The tournament concludes on Saturday.

SHAWE BEATS CROTHERSVILLE

Shawe picked up a 58-40 win at Crothersville on Friday.

Philip Kahn scored 22 points to lead the Hilltoppers while Braiden Smith had 11 points and Jacob Hertz scored seven.

Shawe, now 4-3 on the season, competes in the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament at Madison on Friday. The Hilltoppers will take on Madison at 4:50 p.m. on Friday and will wrap up pool play against Trimble County at 11:50 a.m. on Saturday. The tourney concludes Saturday evening.

HAUSER RALLIES TO BEAT PACERS

Switzerland County led 15-2 in the first quarter but Hauser rallied in a big way to claim a 53-42 win in boys basketball Saturday in Vevay.

SEE **CHARGE/PAGE B8**

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

BASKETBALL

Hanover men host Asbury, 3 p.m.

Shawe girls at Crothersville, 7:30 p.m.

Southwestern girls host Clarksville, 7:30 p.m.

Switzerland Co. girls host New Washington, 7:30 p.m.

Trimble Co. boys host Anderson Co., 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co., Trimble Co. girls, Smoky Mountain Classic at Gatlinburg, Tenn., TBA

Carroll Co. boys host Augusta, 7:30 p.m

THURSDAY, DEC. 21

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co., Trimble Co. girls, Smoky Mountain Classic at Gatlinburg, Tenn., TBA

Southwestern girls host Eastern (Pekin), 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co., Trimble Co. girls, Smoky Mountain Classic at Gatlinburg, Tenn., TBA

Southwestern boys vs. Christian Academy, JCIT at Madison, 3 p.m.

Madison boys host Shawe, JCIT at Madison, 4:50 p.m.

Southwestern boys vs. Carroll Co., JCIT at Madison, 6:40 p.m.

Switzerland Co. boys at North Decatur, 7:30 p.m.

Madison boys host Trimble Co., JCIT at Madison, 8:30 p.m.

Pacers' Richards wins title at 126 pounds in Columbus East Invite

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Switzerland County unbeaten sophomore Peyton Richards won all three of his matches easily to claim the title at 126 pounds in the Columbus East Invitational in wrestling on Saturday.

Terre Haute South scored 249.5 points to win the nine-team event with Columbus East coming in second with 243.

Richards (14-0) won each of his first two matches by pins, defeating Brown County's Xavier Himebaugh in 1:17 and Madison's Drew Zuckschwerdt in 2:29. In the finals, he scored a 14-2 major decision over Columbus East's Gage Rutan for the crown.

Gabe Rose placed second at 144 pounds, falling by an 11-4 decision to East's Caleb Cooper in the finals. Ethan Jones, also wrestling at 144, placed third, Ethan Rose (106 pounds) was fourth, Dakota Fields (120), Keegan Gross (138) and Christian Smith (285) each placed fifth, Avy Burkholder (113), Chazz Hartley (132), Jacklyn Smithson-Cox (157) and Jachoby McKay (175) each placed sixth, and Masin Stroud (165) placed seventh.

Izik Roberts was Madison's top finisher in the event, placing second at 132 pounds. Roberts scored a 6-4 decision over East's Aiden Miller in the quarterfinals then beat Switzerland's Hartley 8-7 in the semifinals. He then lost by a pin in 1:32 to Terre Haute South's Josiah Dedeaux in the finals.

Eli Stewart (120) and Ayden Waggoner (175) each placed third, Drew Zuckschwerdt (126) and Zane Skinner (150) each placed fifth, Taye Labolt (165) was sixth, Ethan Pittman (113), Trenton Bivens (138), Owen Colwell (157) and Don Chen (215) each placed seventh, and Nick Colson (144) was eighth.

Terre Haute South scored 249.5 points to win the nine-team event with Columbus East coming in second with 243. Switzerland placed sixth with 115 points and Madison was seventh with 93.5.

Both Madison and Switzerland County return to action on Thursday, Dec. 28. Madison hosts the Cub Classic while Switzerland competes in the Spartan Classic at Connersville.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Trimble winning streak reaches 4 games with victories vs. Gallatin, Williamstown

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Trimble County extended its win streak to four games with a pair of girls basketball victories over Gallatin County and Williamstown late last week.

On Thursday, Trimble traveled to Gallatin and came away with a 65-51 win. Addison Edmondson had 18 points, Ainslie Stark scored 11 and Payton Butters and Jolie Wilcoxson each had eight for the Raiders.

Edmondson scored 20 points and Trinity Crawford had 11 in a 59-24 win over Williamstown at home on Friday.

Trimble, now 5-1 overall on the season, improves to 3-0 in 31st District play and 1-0 in the North Central Kentucky Conference. The Raiders compete in the Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, starting on Wednesday. Trimble will face Silverdale Academy of Tennessee in their first game.

MADISON FALLS TO RANKED TEAMS

Madison girls basketball took it on the chin against a pair of ranked teams late last week.

The Cubs lost 64-23 to Class 4A No. 9 Jennings County (11-1) then fell 52-43 to Class A No. 3 Borden on Saturday.

Madison could do little offensively against Jennings, shooting just 23% (8-of-35) from the floor and hitting only two 3-pointers. The Cubs turned the ball over 25 times while getting out-rebounded 37-29.

Juliana Davis and Mylee McQueary each scored seven points to lead Madison.

Davis erupted for 32 points and had four rebounds in the loss to Borden (10-1). McQueary had nine points and six rebounds.

Madison, now 7-5 on the season, gets a two-week break before competing in the North Decatur Tournament beginning on Dec. 29. The Cubs will face Shelbyville at noon in the first game and then will play either Edgewood or North Decatur that night.

PACERS BEAT HAUSER

Courtney Higgins scored 20 points to lead Switzerland County to a 55-32 win over Hauser at home on Thursday.

Higgins also had five rebounds for the Pacers. Bri Stow had nine points and four steals, Molly Wrightsman had eight points and Lauren Smith had six points, seven rebounds and three steals.

Switzerland, now 8-5 on the season, hosts New Washington on Tuesday and competes in the Waldron Tournament beginning on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

REBELS DROP 2 GAMES

Southwestern dropped a pair of games, losing to Rock Creek and Providence late last week.

On Thursday, Southwestern fell 72-60 at home to Rock Creek. Chloey Leach had 17 points to lead the Rebels while Olivia Simpson scored 15 and Ashley Fulton had 14.

On Saturday, Southwestern lost 45-38 at Providence. Fulton's 10 points led the way, Harlee Hill had nine and Rorie Scroggins scored eight.

Southwestern, now 6-7 overall, hosts Clarksville on Tuesday and Eastern (Pekin) on Thursday. The Rebels then compete in the Toby Yoho Classic at North Daviess starting on Thursday, Dec. 28.

SHAWE FALLS AT HENRYVILLE

Henryville steadily pulled away over all four quarters to beat Shawe 49-37 in girls basketball on Thursday.

The host Hornets won each quarter by two, four, five and two points to claim the win.

Allison Knoebel scored 15 points and had eight rebounds to lead the Hilltoppers. Jamison Williams added nine points while Hunter Mote had seven.

Shawe, now 2-7 on the season, travels to Crothersville on Tuesday and plays in the Pam Browning Classic at Carroll County starting on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

OWEN BEATS CARROLL

Carroll County suffered a 56-41 loss at home to Owen County on Thursday.

Chloe McGuire had 12 points to lead the Panthers while Elle Spencer, Kelby Maiden and Kaitlyn Hensley each scored eight.

Carroll, now 1-4 overall and 0-3 in the 31st District, competes in the Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic in Gatlinburg, Tennessee starting on Wednesday. The Panthers will face Middlesboro (Ky.) in the opening game.

Shawe's Vaughn, Rebels' Crawford place 2nd at Floyd Central Invitational

BY THE COURIER STAFF

The swim teams from Southwestern and Shawe competed in the Floyd Central Invitational on Saturday.

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn, his school's lone participant, placed second in the boys 50-yard freestyle in 23.80. He was also second in the 500 freestyle in 5:27.17.

Southwestern's Natalee Crawford also had a big day. The freshman was second in the girls 100 freestyle in 58.63 and third in the 50 freestyle in 26.83.

Other finishes for the Southwestern girls were: Raygan Crawford, Riley Crawford, Alexis Dean-Wells and Natalee Crawford, third, 200 free relay, 1:57.97; Raygan Crawford, fourth, 100 fly, 1:10.16 and fourth, 100 back, 1:08.76; Riley Crawford, fifth, 100 free, 1:02.30 and sixth, 50 free, 28.34; Natalee Crawford, Adalei Watson, Raygan Crawford and Alexis Dean-Wells, fifth, 200 medley relay, 2:19.37; Watson, seventh, 500 free, 7:32.09; Watson, eighth, 100 breast, 1:40.09; and Dean-Wells, ninth, 199 back, 1:23.21 and 13th, 50 free, 31.89.

Finishes for the Southwestern boys were: Forrest Deutscher, ninth, 100 free, 1:35.02 and 14th, 50 free, 44.08; Robert De Paz Gonzalez, 10th, 200 free, 1:35.16 and 12th, 50 free, 39.60; and Shane Hardy, 12th, 100 free, 1:41.45 and 15th, 50 free, 44.74.

Floyd Central won both the boys and girls team championships easily. Southwestern placed fifth in the girls competition with 186 points and sixth in the boys with 31. Shawe was fifth in the boys with 34.

The meet was the last for both teams until after the Christmas break. Southwestern hosts Shawe and Switzerland County on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Purdue back to No. 1 in AP poll; Kentucky 9th

BY AARON BEARD
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Purdue's slide from No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll turned out to be brief.

The Boilermakers headlined Monday's latest poll for the second time this season after beating former No. 1 Arizona over the weekend. The Wildcats had spent two weeks at No. 1 after Purdue's loss to Northwestern ended the Boilermakers' stint at the top after one week.

Purdue received 48 of 62 first-place votes in the latest poll to jump from third with the Arizona win, which marked the program's first win against a No. 1 team in 23 years. It also marked the latest impressive nonconference win to a resume that already includes ranked teams in Gonzaga, Tennessee and Marquette.

Preseason No. 1 Kansas stayed at No. 2 with six first-place votes, while Houston moved up one spot to No. 3 and had the other eight votes. Arizona fell to fourth.

THE TOP TIER

UConn, Marquette, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky and Baylor rounded out the top 10.

Of that group, the Sooners are making their first appearance inside the top 10 since February 2021. And the Wildcats cracked the top 10 for the first time this season after beating North Carolina in the CBS Sports Classic.

RISING AND FALLING

Kentucky's five-spot rise marked the biggest jump of the week. Oklahoma and Tennessee were next with four spots to push inside the top 10, while No. 13 Illinois rose three spots. In all, 10 teams climbed from last week's poll.

No. 15 Gonzaga and No. 18 Clemson took the biggest tumbles, with each falling five spots after losses. Baylor, which lost in a blowout to Michigan State, and No. 12 Creighton were next by falling four spots.

A total of seven teams slid from last week's rankings.

HANOVER ROUNDUP

Hanover rallies in 2nd half to knock off Mount St. Joseph

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Hanover women's basketball outscored Mount St. Joseph by 11 in the second half to hand the Lions their first loss of the season, 69-59 at home on Saturday.

The Panthers trailed 34-33 at halftime but gained a small three-point lead (51-48) lead by the end of the third quarter. Hanover then outscored Mount (8-1, 2-1 Heartland) 18-11 in the fourth quarter to claim the win.

Grace Bezold had 15 points while Taylor Heath and Kady Clancy scored 13 each to lead Hanover. Sammy Berman added 11 points off the bench.

Hanover, now 5-4 overall, improves to 4-0 in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference play.

The Panthers return to action on Friday, Dec. 29, when they face Mount Union (Ohio) in the Bluffton (Ohio) Classic.

MEN DOMINATE MOUNT

Hanover College outscored Mount St. Joseph 37-13 in the first half and rolled to an 82-54 win in men's basketball Saturday at Collier Arena.

Twelve different players scored in the game for Hanover, led by Ty Houston with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Coleman Sater had 13 points and Max Greenamoyer added 12.

Hanover, now 7-3 overall, improves to 4-0 in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference play. The Panthers host Asbury (Ky.) at 3 p.m. on Tuesday and will not play again until Wednesday, Jan. 3 when they travel to Anderson.

COURIERAREA SPORTS SHORTS

BY THE COURIER STAFF

• Trimble County's Addison Edmondson has been named North Central Kentucky Conference girls basketball player of the week.

Edmondson scored 30 points and had seven rebounds, two assists and two steals in a win over Carroll County.

• Madison boys junior varsity basketball defeated Austin 52-49 on Saturday.

Matt McCarty had 21 points to lead the Cubs and Gabe Fife had 10.

Madison, now 2-3 on the season, travels to Scottsburg on Friday, Jan. 5.

• Southwestern jayvee boys basketball split a pair of games over the weekend.

On Friday, the Rebels lost 62-49 to Jac-Cen-Del. Caleb Seals had 12 points and Caleb Goode had 10 for the Rebels.

On Saturday, Southwestern defeated Clarksville 66-27. Goode had 25 points, Landon Higgins had 17 and Seals scored 13.

Southwestern, now 3-4 overall and 1-1 in the Ohio River Valley Conference, host Floyd Central on Saturday, Dec. 30.

• Switzerland County junior varsity girls basketball improved to 11-0 on the season with a 44-34 win over Hauser on Thursday.

Addie Kelso scored 22 points and Kaitlynn Stucker had 17 to lead the Pacers.

Switzerland hosts Lawrenceburg on Tuesday.

• Southwestern defeated Rock Creek 45-20 in junior varsity girls basketball on Thursday.

Annie Ford had 11 points to lead the Rebels, Baleigh McAfee had 10 and Nan Baigorri scored nine.

Southwestern, now 7-1 on the season, hosts Clarksville on Tuesday.

• Madison eighth grade girls basketball split two games in the Scottsburg Invitational on Saturday.

The Bears fell 51-35 to Jennings County in the first game. Izzy True and Natty Montgomery had 10 points each for Madison.

The Bears then defeated Scottsburg 45-27 in the second game. Montgomery scored 24 points and True had 10.

• Madison junior varsity girls basketball lost 40-25 to Jennings County on Thursday.

Addison Roark had 12 points and Kylie Montgomery scored seven.

Madison travels to Brownstown on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Realignment, stunning demise of Pac-12 usher in super conference era

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

The commissioners from three of the remaining power conferences in college sports appeared together in a crowded convention center ballroom and were asked to ponder what was wrought by three tumultuous years of realignment that culminated in the destruction of a 108-year-old institution.

"Obviously, not happy about the ultimate outcome to the Pac-12, but I'm in this position to give us the best options and future possible and we took advantage of the moment." Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark explained during the session in Las Vegas.

That moment came over a span of six weeks this past summer. The Pac-12 was ripped apart and redistributed by its competitors, regardless of geography. The stunning demolition, set in motion a year earlier, was accelerated when the Pac-12 couldn't secure a media rights deal to match its competitors.

The redrawing of the college sports map and demise of the Pac-12, a conference that claims the most NCAA championships and a legacy that includes the likes of Jackie Robinson, Bill Walton, Aaron Rodgers, Katie Ledecky, Tiger Woods and Cheryl Miller, made conference realignment The Associated Press Sports Story of the Year.

All of the moves by 2023 — and it was hard to keep count — will take effect in 2024, which will go down as one of the most transformative in the history of college athletics.

Oregon and Washington pledged to join the Big Ten, where Southern California and UCLA had already committed. Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah fled for the Big 12. Stanford and California found a life line in the Atlantic Coast Conference, a league with all its football-playing members currently in the Eastern time zone.

The four new West Coast Big Ten schools will be no closer than 1,500 miles from any of their new conference rivals.

Along with Texas and Oklahoma relocating from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference, all will join their new leagues before the start of next college football season.

"These are seismic moves," former Fox Sports executive Bob Thompson said.

The end of the Pac-12 ushered in the super conference era and laid bare the bottom line of college sports.

"I don't know what the institutions that are involved will say was the motivation, but it was money in every case," former Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said.

Next year, the Big Ten will have 18 schools, the Big 12 and SEC 16 each and the ACC 17 football-playing members, including SMU in Dallas. The Pac-12 is likely to survive with Oregon State and Washington State rebuilding the conference, but it will no longer reside among college sports' super wealthy.

The Power Five is now a Power Four, but within that there is a Big Two. The Big Ten and SEC now have media rights deals that will allow them to provide yearly payouts to their members of upwards of $70 million. The ACC and Big 12 are hoping to stay within $30 million per year per school of those stratospheric numbers.

This all comes as the prospect of major college football players being directly paid by schools becomes more realistic. Just two weeks ago, NCAA President Charlie Baker proposed a plan to do exactly that.

"How much of the realignment moves are to position these universities for better success in the NIL world?" Thompson asked.

The frantic culmination of this round of realignment came from late July to early September, but the first domino was tipped in the summer of 2021 when it was revealed that Texas and Oklahoma were bolting the Big 12 for the SEC. That, said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, cleared the decks for schools eager to "take advantage of free agency."

When the best the Pac-12 could do was a partnership with Apple that had a smaller annual guarantee than those of the ACC and Big 12, it sent schools shopping for a better deal.

"I don't know that the four members that came to the Big 12 were moving toward something as much as they were trying to ensure that they didn't go down with the ship, relative to the Pac-12," Bowlsby said.

Conference realignment has been a part of college sports for about as long as games have been game on campus, primarily driven by schools and leagues jockeying for prestige, better competition and more robust revenue streams.

The most recent round of realignment felt more predatory. Survival for the fittest.

"In short, I think it was unnecessary," Bowlsby said. "I don't I don't think the college athletics ecosystem is better with the absence of the Pac-12."

The top of college sports should be heading into a few years of relative peace when it comes to realignment. Each of the remaining power conferences is locked into a media rights deal through at least the 2029-30 school year.

Browning shines again for Bengals in 27-24 OT win

BY MITCH STACY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Trailing 17-3 late in the third quarter behind an offense that had struggled to move the ball, the Bengals needed Jake Browning to be nearly perfect — and he was.

Browning led Cincinnati to three fourth-quarter touchdowns and directed the winning drive in overtime in his latest extraordinary performance since taking over for the injured Joe Burrow, and the Bengals beat the Minnesota Vikings 27-24 on Saturday to improve their position in the playoff race.

Browning won his third straight start and improved to 3-1 since Burrow suffered a season-ending right wrist injury in a loss at Baltimore. This time, he threw for 184 yards and two touchdowns in the fourth quarter and overtime, becoming the fourth QB in the past two years to throw for at least that many yards and two or more scores after three quarters.

"I feel like I need a beer," said Browning, who beat a team that cut him from its practice squad two years ago.

Tee Higgins went high over a Vikings defender to catch a 16-yard pass from Browning and make a twisting move at the goal line for the tying touchdown with 39 seconds left in regulation.

Then, in overtime, a scrambling Browning found Tyler Boyd for a 44-yard completion that got Cincinnati (8-6) into Vikings territory and set up Evan McPherson's game-ending 29-yard field goal.

"Jake's just so steady, you know?" Bengals coach Zac Taylor said. "He really is. He doesn't get rattled by a negative play. He doesn't overreact to it."

Browning was 29 for 42 for 324 yards with two touchdowns — both to Higgins — and an interception. He completed passes to 11 receivers and has a 110.9 passer rating in his four starts..

Nick Mullens, the fourth quarterback to start a game this season for the Vikings, was solid in defeat. He passed for 303 yards with two TDs but threw two interceptions.

"An absolute grind of a football game," Mullens said. "But those are the types of games you want to be in."

Minnesota (7-7) has lost three of four, the only win in that stretch a 3-0 decision at Las Vegas that led to Joshua Dobbs being benched in favor of Mullens, who had more success finding the Vikings' playmakers.

Jordan Addison had six catches for 111 yards and two TDs. Justin Jefferson had seven receptions for 84 yards in his first full game since returning from a hamstring injury. He suffered a chest injury in the Raiders game.

"Nick did a fantastic job today," Jefferson said. "Especially with just a week of preparation of him being the starting quarterback. I feel like he came out today with confidence."

Backup Ty Chandler had a career-high 132 rushing yards and a touchdown for Minnesota. Chandler got the start in place of Alexander Mattison, who has a sprained ankle.

With five teams a half-game behind them in the NFC standings, the Vikings could be out of playoff position by the end of the weekend.

"Very unfortunate," Minnesota coach Kevin O'Connell said. "Come on the road and battle a team that's playing well right now. Felt like we let one slip away."

TAKE THAT

The Vikings let Browning go from their practice squad in 2021. The Bengals picked him up for their practice squad, and he won the job as Burrow's backup before this season.

"I think right after we made the field goal and won the game, I screamed at camera and said, 'They never should have cut me,' " Browning said.

LATE-GAME HEROICS

Browning took over the game late in the third quarter, throwing seven straight completions during a 75-yard drive for the Bengals' first touchdown, a 13-yard strike to Higgins.

On the Bengals' next possession, Browning hit Ja'Marr Chase for 24 yards to convert a third-and-21. Joe Mixon's 1-yard TD run on fourth-and-goal tied the game at 17-all.

Minnesota pushed back in front on Addison's second TD catch of the game before Browning and Higgins found a way to tie it.

Higgins finished with four catches for 61 yards.

"All I can say is, we always count on Tee Higgins," Taylor said. "Tee stepped up big for us, and those were two big touchdowns that he scored for us at the end of the game, and he also made some bigger catches across the middle at other points."

INJURIES

Bengals: DT DJ Reader suffered an injury to his right leg early in the game and was declared out. ... CB DJ Ivey left in the first quarter with a knee injury. ... Chase went out with a shoulder injury in the fourth quarter.

UP NEXT

Bengals visit Pittsburgh next Saturday (**TV:** Live on NBC at 4:30 p.m.).

Bengals WR Chase day to day with shoulder injury; Reader, Ivey both lost for season

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati Bengals receiver Ja'Marr Chase is day to day with a sprained shoulder joint, coach Zac Taylor said Sunday.

That leaves Chase questionable for next Saturday's game at Pittsburgh as Cincinnati (8-6) fights to stay in the AFC playoff race. Chase was hurt in Saturday's 27-24 overtime win against the Vikings.

"We'll continue to see how the week goes," Taylor said regarding the star wideout, who has 1,156 receiving yards and seven touchdowns this season.

Cincinnati will definitely be without defensive tackle DJ Reader (quad) and cornerback DJ Ivey (knee). Both are out for the rest of the season.

Bengals quarterback Jake Browning won his third consecutive start after being pushed into service when franchise quarterback Joe Burrow suffered a season-ending wrist injury Nov. 16.

Minshew, Colts bolster playoff hopes by beating Steelers 30-13

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Gardner Minshew got the most out of his depleted supporting cast.

The Colts' quarterback, himself a backup, made big plays with backup receivers. He got Indianapolis' reserve running backs into play calls that would succeed. It was some of Minshew's finest work of the season — perhaps of his entire career.

Minshew matched his career high with three touchdown passes, Indianapolis rushed for 170 yards and the Colts improved their playoff prospects with a 30-13 win over the sagging Pittsburgh Steelers on Saturday.

"We've needed to win these games and we've done a great job down the stretch," Minshew said. "I think everybody was locked in, the urgency was there, the attention to details. At this point it's all about winning games, however, you've got to get it done."

Minshew and the Colts (8-6) have won five of six to move from the bottom of the AFC South into playoff contention. They currently hold the No. 7 position in the AFC, and they will remain there when this weekend's games conclude because of tiebreakers.

They wouldn't be in that spot without Minshew, who replaced injured rookie Anthony Richardson in Week 5. On Saturday, Minshew went 18 of 28 with 215 yards despite losing top receiver Michael Pittman Jr. to a concussion and top rusher Zack Moss to an injured right arm. Jonathan Taylor (right thumb), the 2021 NFL rushing champ, didn't play, either.

The Steelers (7-7) dropped their third straight and fell into last place in the rugged AFC North, putting coach Mike Tomlin's run of 16 straight seasons at .500 or better in jeopardy.

Pittsburgh took an early 13-0 lead behind backup quarterback Mitch Trubisky, who made his second start in place of the injured Kenny Pickett. But by late in the fourth quarter, the Colts had scored 30 consecutive points and third-stringer Mason Rudolph was slinging passes for the Steelers.

"Let's be honest, we're a fundamentally poor football team right now," Tomlin said. "We're playing losing football and I own that. I don't necessarily have the answers today. If I did, we'd have played differently today. But I will acknowledge things will not continue the way that they are."

Trubisky was 16 of 23 for 169 yards with one TD pass and two interceptions. Pittsburgh rushed for 74 yards and finished with 216 total yards.

The Steelers got off to a promising start when a replay review changed a fumble by Trubisky into a 1-yard TD run. Chris Boswell missed the extra-point attempt. Six plays later, Pittsburgh capitalized on a blocked punt when Trubisky threw a 4-yard TD pass to Diontae Johnson early in the second quarter.

But Indy's defense stiffened from there, and the Colts took control when Minshew and Moss hooked up on a 16-yard TD pass and D.J. Montgomery caught a 14-yard TD pass with 22 seconds left in the first half for a 14-13 lead. Montgomery was promoted from the practice squad this week.

"He's just worked his tail off on the scout team all year, he's just made play after play," Colts coach Shane Steichen said. "It's like, we've got to get this guy up on the active roster."

Pittsburgh's downward spiral continued when Najee Harris fumbled on the first Steelers play of the second half. On the next snap, Minshew threw an 18-yard scoring pass to Mo Alie-Cox to make it 21-13. The Colts sealed the win with three field goals by Matt Gay.

Trey Sermon ran 17 times for 88 yards to lead the Colts after logging only 11 runs this season.

"I think any time you lose really good players like that, nobody's going to just step in and replace them," Minshew said. "I think everybody has to kind of pick up their level of play and I think we got that from a lot of different areas today."

SCARY MOMENT

Lucas Oil Stadium fell silent when Steelers safety Damontae Kazee launched his shoulder into Pittman as the receiver tried to make a diving catch. The Colts later said Pittman had a concussion. Kazee was ejected for the hit, which also drew a penalty.

Colts players immediately rushed to see if Pittman was OK and some players from both teams took a knee as trainers worked on Pittman. Fans covered their eyes and had concerned looks before Pittman got up and walked off the field.

INJURY REPORT

Steelers: S Minkah Fitzpatrick did not return after hurting his left knee in the second quarter.

Colts: Moss did not return after getting hurt on his scoring play. He broke the same arm during the preseason. DT Eric Johnson II left in the second half with what appeared to be a lower-body injury.

BY THE NUMBERS

Steelers: Lost for the first time at Lucas Oil Stadium as their eight-game winning streak in the series ended. ... Johnson led the Steelers with four catches for 67 yards. George Pickens caught three balls for 47 yards.

Colts: Tyler Goodson had 11 carries for 69 yards. Indy had 14 consecutive rushes during one second-half series. ... The Colts had three sacks, giving them 45 this season — two short of a new single-season franchise record.

UP NEXT

Steelers host division rival Cincinnati next Saturday (**TV:** Live on NBC at 4:30 p.m.).

Colts visit Atlanta on Sunday, Dec. 24 (**TV:** Live on FOX at 1 p.m.).

Tomlin promises changes after benching Trubisky in loss to Colts

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Mike Tomlin is tired of losing.

After the Pittsburgh Steelers dropped their third straight, 30-13 at Indianapolis on Saturday, he promised changes. Tomlin didn't provide specifics in the immediate aftermath of another dismal offensive performance, but it looks like Pittsburgh could have a new starting quarterback next week at Cincinnati.

"Everything is on the table at this juncture. We cannot continue to play football like this," said Tomlin, the 17th-year Steelers coach who has never finished with a losing record. "We've got to make changes and we need to do it immediately. We're not going to roll the ball out next week like we did today."

The simplest solution might be the return of quarterback Kenny Pickett, who had helped the Steelers stay in the playoff hunt despite leading one of the NFL's lowest-scoring offenses. He's missed the last two games with a sprained right ankle. Tomlin has said it's possible Pickett could return next week.

If he can't go, Tomlin must decide whether to stay with Mitch Trubisky, who started Pittsburgh's last two games, or give a chance to Mason Rudolph, who relieved Trubisky late against the Colts.

Trubisky finished 16 of 23 for 169 yards. He threw one touchdown pass and two interceptions and was sacked three times. He also scored on a 1-yard plunge that was initially ruled a fumble but was overturned on a replay review.

After taking a 13-0 lead in the first 16 minutes, with one score coming after the Steelers recovered a blocked punt inside the Colts 1-yard line, Pittsburgh only had one more scoring chance — and Tomlin opted to punt instead of trying a 56-yard field goal.

The Steelers finished with 216 total yards, including 74 on the ground. Najee Harris had 12 carries for 33 yards.

Rudolph has started two games in four seasons, a 24-22 loss to Cleveland in the 2021 season finale and a 16-16 tie with Detroit in 2022. He was 2 of 3 for 3 yards Saturday.

But with the Steelers sinking to last place in the rugged AFC North and their scoring average dropping to 15.9 points per game, it's clear they need a new direction.

"We don't have the answers right now, but we're going to find them," Trubisky said. "We're going to work tirelessly at it, we're going to come together, and our leaders have to step up."

While the offense is the most glaring problem, there are other issues.

Pittsburgh's defense allowed Gardner Minshew to throw a career high-tying three TD passes and gave up 170 yards rushing to a backfield that was missing 2021 league rushing champion Jonathan Taylor and its leading rusher this season, Zack Moss, who left with a right arm injury after carrying four times for 13 yards.

Trey Sermon and Tyler Goodson produced 157 yards rushing on 28 combined carries. Both spent most of this season on Indy's practice squad, as did receiver D.J. Montgomery, whose 16-yard TD catch gave Indy a 14-13 lead just before halftime.

The Colts scored the last 30 points.

"You're playing losing football. You're not playing good enough to win," cornerback Patrick Peterson said when asked to describe Tomlin's postgame message. "It's simple for us right now: How much does it mean to you? The road (to the playoffs) is getting narrow."

As Pittsburgh begins its final three-week stretch, finding a way to score points — with or without Pickett — remains the top priority for Tomlin.

The Steelers have scored fewer than 20 points in five consecutive games and have more than 20 just once in their last eight. Firing offensive coordinator Matt Canada in mid-November didn't make a difference.

Trubisky, the No. 2 overall draft pick in 2017, got his chances the last two weeks — and lost twice.

"Let's be honest, we're a fundamentally poor football team right now. We're playing losing football, and I own that," Tomlin said. "I don't necessarily have the answers today. If I did, we'd have played differently today. But I will acknowledge things will not continue the way they are."

T-wolves top short-handed Pacers 127-109

Towns scores 40, Edwards 37

BY MIKE COOK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — Karl-Anthony Towns scored a season-high 40 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, Anthony Edwards added 37 points and the Minnesota Timberwolves pulled away in the second half to dominate the short-handed Indiana Pacers 127-109 on Saturday night.

Naz Reid added 17 points and Kyle Anderson had 10 assists for Minnesota, now 11-1 at home and tied with Boston for the league's best record at 19-5.

Towns had his highest scoring total since a career-best 60 points March 14, 2022. Edwards finished one point shy of his season high. The pair combined for 54 of the Wolves' first 75 points: 27 apiece.

"He's been like that since I've been here," Edwards said of Towns. "He's always been efficient, gets us points. Tries to do everything he can to help us win. He's always been like that. It's not impressive to me, I'm used to seeing it. That's KAT."

Minnesota shot a season-high 55.8% from the field, including a season-best 60% with a season-high 18 makes from outside the arc.

"This is one of the best teams on the planet," said Indiana coach Rick Carlisle. "… It's a good experience to battle these guys. Our young guys got some great experience tonight."

Bruce Brown and Aaron Nesmith scored 17 points for the Pacers. Miles Turner, T.J. McConnell and Isaiah Jackson also scored in double figures as Indiana shot 50% but lost three in a row for the first time this season.

Playing its third road game in four nights and fourth in six, Indiana was without top scorer Tyrese Haliburton, who sustained a bruised left knee Friday in a 137-123 loss at Washington. Additionally, the Pacers did not arrive in Minnesota until Saturday afternoon after aircraft mechanical issues forced them to stay in Washington on Friday night.

"No excuses," Brown said. "I'm just happy to go home."

The team's leading scorer at 25.7 points per game and league leader in assists with 12 per game, Haliburton is shooting 51.5% from the field and 43.5% from 3-point range. Carlisle did not provide a timetable on how long Haliburton would be out.

Minnesota outscored Indiana 39-23 in the 12 minutes. The Timberwolves entered the game allowing a league-low 105.7 points.

Towns had 20 points midway through the second quarter, but the balanced Indiana attack had the Pacers up by six before Edwards took over.

He scored 14 of his 18 second-quarter points in the final four minutes, including a quartet of 3s and a reverse layup in the final seconds for a 57-55 intermission lead.

Edwards had just nine points on 3-for-19 shooting and 0-for-3 from deep in Thursday's 119-101 win at Dallas.

Two 3-pointers apiece by Reid and Troy Brown Jr. sandwiched around Rudy Gobert's block of Nesmith's layup attempt highlighted a 12-4 surge to put Minnesota up 87-71 midway through the third quarter. A three-point play by Towns in the quarter's final minute pushed the lead to 19.

Minnesota outscored Indiana 39-23 in the 12 minutes. The Timberwolves entered the game allowing a league-low 105.7 points.

"Our defense did a good job getting us into this game tonight. Offensively, it's great to hit some shots, but being able to fall back on our identity and our standards defensively found our way to the win," Towns said.

Minnesota starting forward Jaden McDaniels left the game with a bruised tailbone.

Huntley-Hatfield's 20 points spark Louisville past Pepperdine 85-63

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Brandon Huntley-Hatfield put up 20 points for the second straight game and pulled down a season-high 12 rebounds as Louisville out-paced Pepperdine to earn an 85-63 victory to snap a three-game losing streak on Sunday.

Losses to Virginia Tech and DePaul followed by an embarrassing, 75-63 loss to Arkansas State, the program's first double-digit loss at home to a team with a losing record since 1963, have sparked speculation about coach Kenny Payne's job security. Payne is 5-6 in his second season, 9-34 overall. The win Sunday gives Louisville one more win than a year ago. The Cardinals face ranked opponents in their next two games: No. 14 Kentucky, their archrival, at home on Thursday (**TV:** Live on ESPN at 6 p.m.) and at No. 22 Virginia on January 3.

Louisville got off to a fast start against the Waves. After Houston Mallette hit a jumper and a trey back-to-back to give Pepperdine a 5-2 lead, Mike James knocked down a three and Tre White dunked and scored twice at the basket to ignite a run that saw Louisville take a 39-25 lead at the break.

The Cardinals had the lead for all but the first two minutes of the contest and pushed it to as many as 30 points in the second half. Pepperdine got within single digits in the second half, cutting the deficit to 45-38 with 14:22 left, but the Cardinals went on a 10-0 run over a three-minute span and hit 13 of 16 shots over the final 13 minutes.

James finished with 19 points, hitting 3 of 4 from beyond the arc. Curtis Williams hit 4 of 5 from distance to add 16 points as the team hit 9 of 16 from deep. The Cardinals held a 41-22 advantage on the boards and outscored the Waves in the paint, 41-22.

Michael Ajayi scored 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds to lead Pepperdine (5-8). Mallette finished with 11 points and Malik Moore added 10 points.

With No. 1 pick in WNBA draft, Fever will choose among talented stars

BY DOUG FEINBERG
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

UNCASVILLE, Conn. — The Indiana Fever won the WNBA draft lottery for the No. 1 pick for the second consecutive season Sunday.

The Fever took Aliyah Boston last season with the top pick and she earned the league's Rookie of the Year honors.

"This is tremendous news for our franchise to receive another No.1 overall pick," Fever GM Lin Dunn said.

Now Indiana will have to wait to see who decides to enter the draft. Iowa's Caitlin Clark, UConn's Paige Bueckers and LSU's Angel Reese all could head back to school for another year thanks to the extra season because of the coronavirus.

Clark, a generational talent, has said that she would trust her gut when deciding whether to stay in school for a fifth-year. Players have a few days before the draft, which will be held on April 15, to declare.

Indiana, which hasn't made the playoffs since 2016, had a 44% chance of getting the No. 1 pick. They became only the third franchise to win the draft lottery in consecutive seasons, joining the Seattle Storm (2001-02 and 2015-16) and the Las Vegas Aces (2017-19).

Los Angeles has the No. 2 pick with Phoenix choosing third and Seattle fourth. The Sparks, who had an 18% chance at getting the top pick, have missed the postseason two straight years and last had No. 1 in 2012 when they drafted Nneka Ogwumike.

Phoenix had the worst record in the WNBA last season and was trying to earn the first pick for the first time since the Mercury chose Brittney Griner in 2013. They had a 28% chance of getting the No. 1 pick.

"This is a deep draft class and having the third pick will give us multiple options to add talent to our team," said Nick U'Ren, the Phoenix Mercury's general manager. "We have the most amazing fans who have been so supportive as we continue to build to return to our championship-caliber play, and we look forward to what's to come on draft night and beyond when we add another talented player to the Mercury."

The Storm, who will pick fourth, benefited from back-to-back No. 1 picks in 2015 (Jewell Loyd) and 2016 (Breanna Stewart) to win titles in 2018 and 2020.

"We are excited to have received the 4th pick in the 2024 WNBA draft as this will be a critical piece of the future of our team," said Seattle Storm General Manager Talisa Rhea. "As we continue our off-season, ignited by Jewell's commitment to stay in Seattle, we know this draft pick, coupled with our strategy in free agency, will be essential to building a roster ready to compete in the upcoming season."

TUESDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	The Voice (N)		The Voice (N) (SF)				WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Price Is (N)		Big Bro. (N)		FBI True (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	The Voice (N)		The Voice (N) (SF)				News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Inside the NFL		Whose..	Whose..	News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Landing	Prep &	Light Fight "1104/1101" (N) (SF)				News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Landing	Prep &	Light Fight "1104/1101" (N) (SF)				News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Roots		America (N)		Frontline (N)		
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	LEGO Masters (N)				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Price Is (N)		Big Bro. (N)		FBI True (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Inside the NFL		Whose..	Whose..	BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	LEGO Masters (N)				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Christ..	Christ..	Christ..	Christ..	Christ..	Christ..	Neighb..
AMC	29	26	★★★ Christmas With the Kranks				National Lampoon's Christmas ...				(:15) ★★★★ Elf ('03)		
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	SouthP..
DISC	31	38	Moonshiners		Master Distiller		Moonshiners		Master Distiller		Moonshiners		Moons..
DISN	25	29	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Miraculous		Marvel..	Marvel..	Ladyb..	Ladyb..	Jessie
ESPN	32	44	SportsCenter		Basketball Florida vs. Michigan				College Football				
FREE	18	40	(5:40) Home Alone 2: Lost in New...				(:20) Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas						700Club
FX	40	28	(4:00) Star Wa...		★★★★ Star Wars: Return of the Jedi ('83)						Fargo (N)		Fargo
HBO	201	17	Murder	(:55) ★★★ Jurassic World ('15) Chris Pratt.					Hard (N)		REAL Sports (N) (SF)		
MAX	270	73	(:15) ★★★ Kill the Irishman ('11)				★★★ Greta ('18)			(:40) ★★★★ Enemy ('13)			Movie
NEWSNTN	20	20	Elizabeth (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	(5:00) ★★★★ The Town ('10)				★★★ Shooter ('07) Michael Peña, Mark Wahlberg.						Town
SHOW	221	16	Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heig...				Showing Up ('22)				The Lesson ('23)		
TMC	233	74	Movie	(:35) 12 O'Clock Boys: ...			Chocolate City ('15)			How Stella Got Her Groove Back			
TNT	27	43	(5:00) Jumanji		Tip-Off	NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball		
USA	26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		WWE NXT (N)				(:10) ★★★ Fast Five ('11)		

WEDNESDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Barry Manilow		Christmas at the Opry				WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Survivor (N) (SF)						CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Barry Manilow		Christmas at the Opry				News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Christmas Around the USA				News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Movie	Mickey	Light Fight		CMA Country		News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Movie	Mickey	Light Fight		CMA Country		News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Nature		NOVA		Great		BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	The Masked Singer (N) (SF)				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Survivor (N) (SF)						News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Christmas Around the USA				BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	The Masked Singer (N) (SF)				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Interro..	Interro..	Court..
AMC	29	26	(5:45) National Lampoon's Christ...				★★★★ Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				The Polar Express		
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	SouthP..
DISC	31	38	Expedition		Expedition		Expedition		Expedition (N)		(:10) Mystery (N)		Expedi..
DISN	25	29	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	ToySto..	Ghost	Ghost	Ladyb..	Villains	Villains	Bunk'd
ESPN	32	44	SportsCenter		Basketball Baylor vs. Duke (N)				College Basketball				Basket..
FREE	18	40	(5:35) Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch ...				(:15) Rudolph		(:20) Frosty		(:55) S. Claus		700Club
FX	40	28	(5:00) ★★★★ Black Widow ('21)				Captain America: The First Avenger					Captain Ame...	
HBO	201	17	(5:40) Sports		(:10) Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit				Daniel (N)		(:15) Murder		Movie
MAX	270	73	Movie	(:35) ★★ Scary Movie 2			Forbidden Kingdom			(:45) Frank Miller's Sin City			
NEWSNTN	20	20	Elizabeth (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	(3:30) Dark Knight Rises		To Be Announced								Movie
SHOW	221	16	(:15) ★★★ Failure to Launch ('06)				How Stella Got Her Groove Back				(:05) Thriller 40		
TMC	233	74	(:20) God's Waiting Room ('21)				★★★ Mimic ('97) (P)			(:45) ★★ Mimic 2 ('01) (P)			Movie
TNT	27	43	Movie	Road,..	NHL o..	NHL Hockey					NHL Hockey		
USA	26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-S..

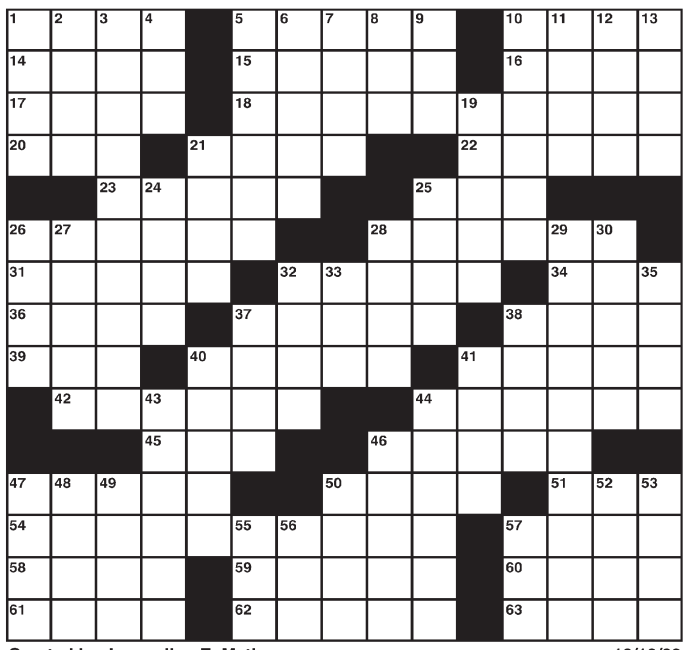
THURSDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Christmas at		Dolly Parton's Mountain Magic ...				WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Big Bro. (SF)		Dick Van Dyke (N)				CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Ready	Christmas at		Dolly Parton's Mountain Magic ...				News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		ZoneE..	ET (N)	Son of a	Childr..	Whose..	JokeOff	News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2023 (N)				Shark Tank		News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2023 (N)				Shark Tank		News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Antiques		Doc Martin		Father Brown		BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	The Christmas Break ('23) (P)				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Big Bro. (SF)		Dick Van Dyke (N)				News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Son of a	Childr..	Whose..	JokeOff	BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	The Christmas Break ('23) (P)				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		First (N)		Raw (N)		Accused (N)		First48
AMC	29	26	★★★ Four Christmases ('08)				National Lampoon's Christmas ...				National Lampoon's V...		
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	(:20) The Office		Office	Office	Office	Office	SouthP..
DISC	31	38	Contraband		Contraband		Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Contra..
DISN	25	29	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff	Disney's A Christmas ...			Ladyb..	Villains
ESPN	32	44	Basketball Kentucky at Louisville				College Football						
FREE	18	40	(:20) ★★★★ Home Alone ('90)					(:50) ★★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York ('92)					
FX	40	28	(4:00) Amazing...		★★★★ Spider-Man: Far From Home ('19)						Spider-Man: Far Fro...		
HBO	201	17	(5:30) Hobbit: Battle of the Five A...				The Gilded Age		★★★★ Barbie ('23)				Movie
MAX	270	73	(:10) ★★★ Taken 3 ('14)				★★★★ Colossal ('16)			(:50) ★★★★ Ex Machina ('14)			
NEWSNTN	20	20	Elizabeth (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	Movie	Movie					Movie				
SHOW	221	16	(:05) ★★★★ Total Recall ('90)				★★★★ Jules ('23)			Travelers		(:45) Scream VI	
TMC	233	74	(:15) ★★★★ The Wings of the Dove				★★★ The Brothers Grimm ('05)				Sweeney Todd: Demo...		
TNT	27	43	(5:30) ★★★ Justice League ('17)				★★★ Aquaman ('18) Amber Heard, Jason Momoa.						Movie
USA	26	33	(5:30) L..	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU	

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 Baseball's Berra
5 Punctuation mark
10 __ to; increases
14 In the sack
15 Dodge
16 Boyfriend
17 City near Lake Tahoe
18 Not excessive
20 PBS' Science Guy
21 Smallest coin
22 __ up; caused Mom problems
23 Makes level
25 Australia's national bird
26 Motto
28 Julius or Sid
31 Baffling riddle
32 __ about; got wind of
34 Tow
36 Fervent
37 Memorize
38 __-fry; wok dish
39 Butterfly catcher's need
40 Computer bug
41 Tea biscuit
42 Bundle of energy
44 In need of a haircut
45 As cool __ cucumber
46 Africa's Sierra __
47 Range
50 Lion's hair
51 Attempt
54 Discipline
57 Dayton's state
58 Suffix for bear or break
59 Refueling ship
60 Prison cubicle
61 Utters
62 Pushover
63 Long walk

DOWN
1 Afghan maker's supply
2 Toe the line
3 Impulse to give
4 Matrimony words
5 Lurch from side to side
6 Appliance store display
7 Protective ditch
8 Prefix for place or print
9 Hullabaloo
10 Early counter
11 Money owed
12 Valley
13 Hauled into court
19 __ names; was a snitch
21 Ivan IV or Feodor I
24 No longer young
25 Deserve
26 Extend across
27 Cherished
28 Accords & Sonatas
29 In the __; naked
30 Being sorry for
32 Sandwich type
33 __ de cologne
35 Author Zane
37 __ beans
38 Look over quickly
40 Florist's shelf supply
41 Oxford or clog
43 Sea forces
44 Guard
46 Freeway divisions
47 Baths with seats
48 Oompah band instrument
49 Exclusively
50 Turn to slush
52 Irk
53 Part of an egg
55 Bunny's move
56 "Mamma __!"
57 Two months ago: abbr.



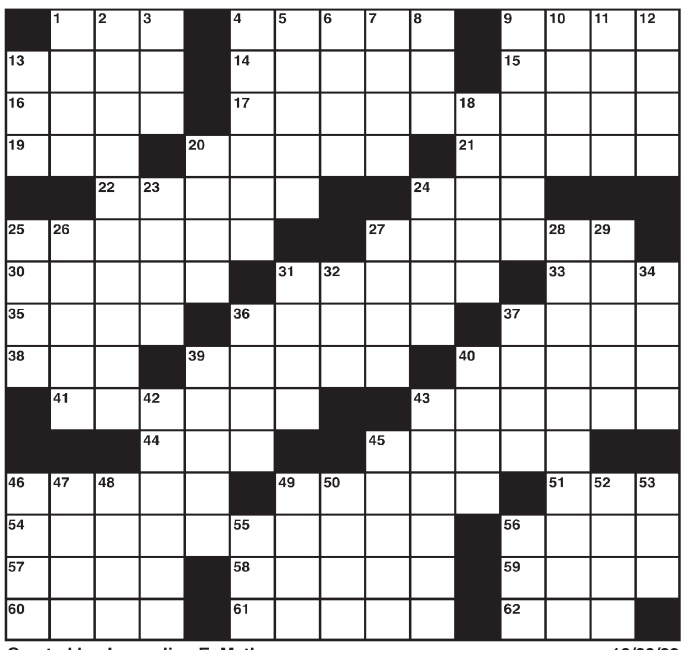
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/19/23

Today's Puzzle Solved

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 "The King and I" actor
4 Bush
9 Intentionally exclude
13 Cowboy Autry
14 Self-assurance
15 "Been there, __ that"
16 Money for the poor
17 Objectives
19 Refreshing spot
20 Nasty look
21 Most horrible
22 "__, José!"
24 Aristotle's "T"
25 Handbook
27 Swivels
30 Vigilant
31 UCLA athlete
33 Easter entrée, perhaps
35 John Gielgud & Elton John
36 Rule
37 City in Nevada
38 Linden, for one
39 Stitched joinings
40 Groups of cattle
41 Part of CBS
43 Walks leisurely
44 Clodhopper
45 Greek letter
46 Loathe
49 Tire ridge pattern
51 To and __
54 Strolling along
56 Ragout
57 Competent
58 Largest deer family member
59 Cure
60 Nigh
61 Total; complete
62 Drop the ball

DOWN
1 Cry out in pain
2 Rude
3 Aspin or Schwab
4 Word with cord or column
5 Bread spread
6 Ceremony
7 __-friendly; easy to operate
8 Man's nickname
9 Hateful
10 Anchor a boat
11 Hotels
12 Try out
13 Vehicle fuel
18 Author Mark
20 Slap
23 Yours and mine
24 Look-alike
25 Sitcom set in wartime
26 Assumed name
27 Pulls hard
28 From that time on
29 Mr. Koufax
31 Radiate
32 Curved edge
34 Velvety ground cover
36 Boating hazard
37 Workaholic's need
39 Git-go
40 __ up; delay
42 __ than; before
43 Barely sufficient
45 Hard to teach
46 __ example; for instance
47 Ruth or Didrikson
48 Graceful dance
49 Horse's gait
50 Mob scene
52 Tush
53 Hooter
55 Second-largest bird
56 That girl



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/20/23

Today's Puzzle Solved

Single man searches for the right match

Dear Amy: I've been single since high school (I'm currently 27 years old).

Dating has never been a priority of mine, but I do want a romantic relationship in my life.

I've been on several dating apps for the past few years and have finally matched with a real, genuine human (as a man, the odds of that happening are disproportionately slim).

We've been talking for a while, but I'm the one who's been carrying the conversation.

I'm asking all the questions like, "What do you like to do in your free time?" or "How has your day been?"

She replies with very short answers that have made it increasingly difficult for me to proceed.

I know so much about her, yet she hasn't exactly shown much interest in me.

I have mentioned a few things about myself organically, but she doesn't respond very intensely to anything I offer.

There is the possibility that she would communicate better in person, but at this point, I'm reluctant to get to an in-person meeting. Is it wrong to make that assumption from our solely remote interactions? Should I keep taking the initiative, though it's like pulling teeth, or should I let her know that I'm not feeling a connection and cut the loose ties before anything gets too serious?

— Looking

AMY **DICKINSON** ASK AMY

Dear Looking: It's hard to imagine things getting "too serious," with this match, given your completely reasonable desire and expectation to have a relationship with someone who expresses an interest in you.

So yes, it is time to move on. You can reply, "I'm not sensing a connection here, but I wish you all the best in your search for a relationship."

It's not necessary to provide any further explanation, unless she asks for one. You say you've been at this for some time without success, and so you should also take this opportunity to review the venues you are using to try to find a match and to refresh your own technique.

Review (or have a friend) review your photos and your dating profile. Choose a variety of flattering but realistic photos of you in different contexts. Make eye contact with the camera. Spiff up your profile and narrative. Focus on dating apps that have a larger number of people in your geographical area.

I'm also wondering if you might have better luck finding real, genuine people in real life. You know — in person?

One way to meet new people is to actually meet people. This is done by renewing/reviving your IRL friendships, joining organizations aligning with your interests, getting out there and greeting people with eye contact and a smile at the coffee shop.

Friend of abused woman steps away

Dear Amy: "Christy" and I have been friends for more than 25 years.

Christy married an abusive monster, and after 15 years of her crying to me and then going back to him, I stepped away for a few years.

I told her that I believed he would kill her, and if I couldn't convince her to leave, I had to leave because I couldn't watch.

A few years ago, she told me about the horrible effects of his abuse, which led to hospitalizations and eventually brain surgery for an issue related to his abuse.

I brought her into my home for a month, nursed her through the miraculous, frightening surgery and then she went BACK to him.

I stepped away for another three years.

She reached out a year ago and told me they had divorced.

I went for a visit, and she admitted she'd lied, saying that they had agreed not to divorce, "So, if he dies first, I'll get his military retirement benefit."

I told her she was nuts, but if she wasn't sleeping with him, and if she never, ever again called me in tears over him, I'd leave the topic alone.

She said OK, then called me in tears a few weeks later over booty-call drama with him, and I've ghosted her ever since.

Since she won't help herself by not sleeping with him, I've turned my back "without explanation," beyond that first 20 years of pleading with her to get away from him. I know ghosting is cold-hearted, but I'm done. She leaves supportive comments on my Facebook posts, but I don't respond. So why do I still hope she's OK? Why do I feel guilty?

— Tired

AMY **DICKINSON** ASK AMY

Dear Tired: You hope that your friend is OK because … at this point, hope is all you've got.

You have made a laudable emotional and personal investment in trying to protect "Christy." This connection has been a lifeline for her over the years. But let's talk about you.

You have instructed Christy not to have sex with her abusive husband, leveraging your friendship on this choice. Even though your intentions are protective, and anyone could see how you came to this point, this is also an example of the kind of external control you have urged her to flee from.

Yes, you must protect yourself by detaching from Christy's choices. But detachment does not necessarily mean ghosting. Detachment can also translate into acceptance: Christy will most likely remain in this abusive marriage. Leaving could put her in danger.

You could draw boundaries around your friendship, but you can't draw boundaries around her life and expect her to respect them.

SUDOKU

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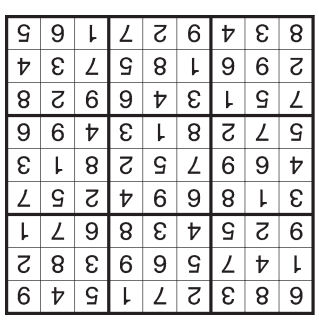

SUDOKU

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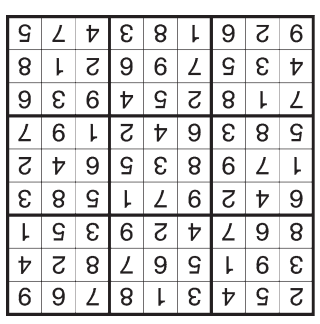

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may be feeling like a fairy tale protagonist who has gained the admiration of everyone and is destined to get their dreams fulfilled. Being popular and in demand at social gatherings is fun, but keep it real.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You might find it difficult to contain your excitement right now. You may be ready to try something new, but it could end up disrupting someone else's plans. When it comes to money do not trust in luck.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — This may not be the best time to move forward on a spontaneous decision without thinking things through. You could come to regret tweaks to your established plans. Sleep on it for now and wait for a better day.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You could find time in your hectic schedule to stop and admire some festive lights or cheerful decorations. It may be possible that a friendly or lighthearted mood can rub off on co-workers or casual acquaintances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It can be challenging to incorporate a change of plans into your schedule just to make a family member happy. You may have some second thoughts about a gift or worry that you have planned to do less than is expected.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You might receive more attention than usual and could be happy to bask in someone's favor. If loved ones push back on a subject or plan, do your best to maintain the peace. Follow through on an inspiring idea.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — It can be easy to become caught up by upcoming party plans or exciting future events. Do your best to focus on getting assignments in on time and completing your daily tasks so you may enjoy some guilt-free fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — There could be more surprises to deal with than you expected; social activities can gnaw away at your time. You might need to put a decision on the back burner for now and get a fresh start after the holidays.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may wish to indulge in extravagant or luxurious treats during the holidays, but it could be wise to avoid overindulging. Allow someone the chance to put differences aside or work towards a solution.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you are willing to accept an extra task or some added responsibility it could lead to improvements in the future. Cash may not grow on trees but that does not mean you cannot find ways to get more if needed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — It may be better to give than to receive. Try not to make last-minute changes to holiday purchases or put in more effort than necessary into a gift exchange that can eat up too much time with little benefits.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Don't give up! Things can look better soon and relief may be on its way. You could be under some strain, trying to handle too much, and might be afraid of dropping the ball. Take a breath and re-center yourself.

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If other people know you can be enthusiastic about a new project or upcoming event, they could have more faith in you. If you did your best, you might be granted a surprise bonus or a spontaneous reward.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — People can be unpredictable or surprise you with an unexpected call. A key relationship might experience some difficulties. You could find it exhilarating to spend some rare time with someone special.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may have a good relationship with a variety of people because you might know when to speak and when not to. Level-headed bargaining and a passion for material success can help you achieve your ambitions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Holiday greetings or celebrations might not feel as appropriate in some settings. Someone may be too busy to fully enjoy themselves or could be feeling out of sorts. Remain thoughtful and inclusive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your business sense may be better than usual and allow you to see both sides of an issue. See a task through to the end and you can wrap up loose ends so you'll feel relaxed when you attend upcoming gatherings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may need to apologize or perform a good deed without expectation if you want to earn some accolades. Do your best to finish your projects or clean up your space before making plans to avoid falling behind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may feel hesitant to enter into a financial agreement because there are too many strings attached. You and a special someone might be at odds over an invitation or on a different wavelength for a short amount of time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Be prepared to shift gears if needed. You might attempt to please everyone to ensure social activities can run smoothly. If someone sends their regrets another person could pop up and fill the spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may be juggling too many balls at once; your energies could be spread too thin if you are trying to do everything at once. Avoid being intrusive; be mindful of others' feelings whenever you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A final push may be needed when the final countdown approaches. Consider that a business could have different hours or be short staffed during the holidays. Now might be the time to focus on end of the year finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — During the holiday season, a little extra generosity can be a big help. If someone is filling in during their vacation, you may want to provide them with a little extra compensation to show them your appreciation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Someone might be feeling more romantic and affectionate than usual, but now may not be the best time to press for commitment or discuss sensitive issues. Enjoy some hand holding without tying someone down.

Loyer, Smith lead No. 3 Purdue past No. 1 Arizona

BY MARK AMBROGI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Purdue knew it could count on Zach Edey's powerful inside presence.

Once Fletcher Loyer and Braden Smith provided the outside game to go with it, the Boilermakers had all they needed to knock off No. 1 Arizona.

Loyer tied a career high with 27 points, Smith added 26 and No. 3 Purdue handed the Wildcats their first loss with a 92-84 victory Saturday.

Edey added 22 points and nine rebounds, with the 7-foot-4 All-American handling the middle while Smith and Loyer supplied the outside firepower in the Indy Classic.

"To be able to have three guys play at that level offensively, I think, really puts defenses in a bind enough to where they went to something they haven't ran all year and that 3-2 matchup zone that they were playing," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "When they are worried about Zach, we have to have that balance. (Saturday) we had that balance."

Loyer was 5 of 9 on 3-pointers and Smith was 4 of 7 while falling one point shy of his career high.

The Boilermakers (10-1) defeated a No. 1-ranked team for the first time since beating Arizona 72-69 on Nov. 25, 2000, which also was played in Indianapolis.

"I'm not trying to be the No. 1-ranked team in December. (The media) decides that, not me," Wildcats coach Tommy Lloyd said. "It was two great teams going at it and thought it was a great atmosphere. It was basically a road game for the most part. I think our guys dug in and fought back. I think this is going a long way to really help our program."

Caleb Love scored 29 points and Keshad Johnson added 24 for the Wildcats (8-1). Oumar Ballo had 13 points.

The Boilermakers led 67-52 before the Wildcats answered with an 11-0 run to close the deficit to 67-63. Leading by five, Purdue finally regained some breathing room when Smith made a 3-pointer and followed with a steal, leading to Edey's jumper that made it 83-73 with 3:21 remaining.

The Boilermakers shot 54% while the Wildcats shot 52%.

"They have a good team and they're going to beat a lot of people," Painter said. "They're going to be there at the end."

Loyer scored 18 and Smith 14 in the first half to help the Boilermakers take a 49-38 halftime lead.

"Their good players played real well," Lloyd said. "We tried some things and some work and some didn't. I love this team we have."

With the game tied at 30-all, Loyer sank two consecutive 3-pointers to start a 9-0 run.

"I think it was just being aggressive, realizing we were going to need a little more tonight, no matter where it came from not necessarily me," Loyer said of his strong start. "I I missed the first one, not thinking twice and shooting the next one like it was going it."

Painter said the teams will meet in Las Vegas next season.

BIG PICTURE

Arizona: The Wildcats will likely lose their No. 1 spot to No. 2 Kansas. Arizona showed fight but couldn't climb out of 15-point, second-half hole.

Purdue: The Boilermakers have already played five teams ranked in the top 15 this season.

TIP-INS

Painter earned his 423rd victory to tie former Illinois coach Lou Henson for fourth place on the Big Ten coaching list. … Edey moved into second place on school's career rebounding list.

UP NEXT

Purdue hosts Jacksonville on Thursday (**TV:** Live on BTN at 6:30 p.m.).

Dillingham's 17 points leads Kentucky over UNC

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Kentucky seemed to make all the big plays down the stretch. Even then, North Carolina still had a chance to pull out the victory.

But the Tar Heels threw it away.

Rob Dillingham scored 17 points, including two straight baskets to swing the momentum back to Kentucky, and the 14th-ranked Wildcats held on for an 87-83 victory over over the No. 9 Tar Heels on Saturday.

North Carolina squandered a chance to go for a tying 3-pointer when Elliot Cadeau, rushing the ball up the court, delivered a pass off the back of Cormac Ryan, who was looking the other way.

RJ Davis scrambled to recover the loose ball but wound up dribbling across the center line for a backcourt violation.

"It's just a turnover," coach Hubert Davis said, brushing off any attempt to dissect what his team was trying to do. "The play was not to turn it over."

Aaron Bradshaw was fouled and knocked down a free throw with 4.7 seconds left to seal the victory for Kentucky (8-2), which prevailed in the second game of the CBS Sports Classic at State Farm Arena. Ohio State beat UCLA 67-60 in the opening game of the made-for-TV doubleheader.

Davis scored 27 points and Ryan added 20 for the Tar Heels (7-3). The Wildcats were much more balanced, with eight players scoring at least seven points.

"When they're making plays at the end of the game to win game, that shows you what kind of team they are," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "The upside for this team is really up. Let's see if we can get there."

Coming off an 11-day break after an 87-76 loss at No. 5 UConn on Dec. 5, North Carolina trailed nearly the entire game. The Tar Heels finally grabbed their first lead, 72-71, on a pair of free throws by Armando Bacot with 5:15 remaining.

But Kentucky didn't waver.

Bradshaw scored off a putback, and then Dillingham went to work. He pulled off a shifty move in the lane to lose his defender for a finger roll lay-in, and wound up with another easy one from a fast break after a Tar Heels miss.

Just like that, the Wildcats reclaimed a 77-72 edge.

Clinging to an 83-81 lead, Kentucky made another huge play off an inbounds play with just 3 seconds left on the shot clock. Tre Mitchell missed a hurried 3-pointer from the corner, but Bradshaw grabbed the rebound with Davis hanging on him, drawing a foul before the clock expired.

Bradshaw made both free throws with 46.3 seconds to go, and the Wildcats held on from there with a little a little help from the Tar Heels.

The Wildcats led 11 in the first half, thrilling their fans who journeyed to the city known as "Cat-lanta" for Kentucky's dominance over the years when playing in the A-T-L.

But North Carolina seized the momentum just before halftime, scoring the final eight points — including 3-pointers by Ryan and Seth Trimble — to head to the locker room only down 40-38.

Ryan scored 12 points in the opening half, hitting 5 of 6 shots while the rest of the team shot a cumulative 8 of 25 from the field.

The Wildcats led at the break despite making only 14 of 41 shots.

BIG PICTURE

North Carolina: The Tar Heels were dominated on the boards. Kentucky finished with a 42-32 edge that included 18 offensive rebounds — none bigger than the play by Bradshaw in the final minute. "It's just the will, the want-to," Davis said. "We've got to find a way to be a better rebounding team." Seventeen turnovers didn't help, either, especially the last one.

Kentucky: The Wildcats pulled off their second win of the season against a Top 10 team, having also beaten then-No. 8 Miami in the ACC-SEC Challenge. This one felt especially good after that inexplicable setback to another school from the Tar Heel State, an 80-73 loss at home to UNC-Wilmington on Dec. 2.

UP NEXT

Kentucky heads to Louisville on Thursday night (**TV:** Live on ESPN at 6 p.m.) for a matchup with their struggling state rival and embattled coach Kenny Payne, who is reportedly in danger of losing his job.

McCullar scores 21 as No. 2 Kansas rallies past IU 75-71

BY CHRIS GOFF
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOMINGTON — Kevin McCullar Jr. scored 21 points, including four crucial free throws in the final minute, and Hunter Dickinson had 17 points and 14 rebounds as No. 2 Kansas rallied in the second half for a 75-71 win at Indiana on Saturday.

The Jayhawks, who picked up their first victory at Assembly Hall, trailed by as many as 13 and did not take their first lead of the game until Dickinson scored in the post to make it 62-61 with 4:53 remaining.

"It's a long game," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It was a hell of a win. A great atmosphere. The last time I came here I met John Mellencamp. That's probably my fondest memory of this place up until today. This place reminds me of KU: history, tradition. Two true bluebloods out there."

Trey Galloway scored a career-high 28 points for Indiana, Mackenzie Mgbako had 14, Malik Reneau finished with 13, and Kel'el Ware added 11 points and 15 rebounds.

After a spinning bank shot from Dajuan Harris Jr. put Kansas in front 71-66 with 1:11 left, the Hoosiers gave themselves a chance thanks to Galloway's 3-point make on the ensuing possession. After a defensive stop, Galloway missed an off-balance 3 from the right wing that would have given Indiana the lead with 23 seconds left.

"I thought it was good," Galloway said. "Next opportunity I get I am going to make sure I make it. It hurts and stings but a lot of good things to take away. I'm proud of my team."

McCullar, who went 13 of 16 from the line, knocked down two free throws following a foul to make it 73-69. After Ware's putback with 9.4 seconds left got Indiana within two again, McCullar returned to the line and made two more to seal the win in Kansas' first true road game of the season.

"They gave us a great shot," said Dickinson, who said he embraced the boos he used to hear in Assembly Hall as a visiting player for Michigan and heard again Saturday as a member of his new team. "I could probably save a baby out here and they'd still boo me the next day."

Indiana played without starting point guard and third-leading scorer Xavier Johnson for the fourth straight game due to what the team describes as a lower-body injury.

KJ Adams Jr. had 14 points for Kansas, which shot 43% from the field to the Hoosiers' 42%. Harris contributed 12 points and five assists.

"For the most part, we played a solid game," Indiana coach Mike Woodson said. "I thought fatigue set in."

BIG PICTURE

Kansas: Having already banked wins over Kentucky, Tennessee and Connecticut, the Jayhawks proved their new-look identity centered around Dickinson is clicking on all cylinders. In a matchup of two blueblood programs, Kansas survived a raucous environment with poise and execution down the stretch.

Indiana: When the Hoosiers have been successful in recent years, it's been because their big guys are wearing out opponents in the paint. Reneau and Ware entered Saturday averaging 31.5 points per game, more than 40% of Indiana's output as a team. On Saturday, the wing positions carried the offense. The two starters — Mgbako and Galloway — combined for 42 points, easily surpassing their previous season high of 28.

TURNING POINT

In the first minute of the second half, McCullar picked up his third foul. He was whistled for his fourth with 8:30 still to play. Despite the foul trouble, Self played McCullar all 20 minutes in the second half.

"Coach just trusts me to play smart," McCullar said.

STAT OF THE DAY

The second units combined for just nine points, six from Kansas' reserves and three from Indiana's.

"We knew it was going to be our starting five pretty much against their starting five, and their starting five won out," Woodson said.

UP NEXT

Indiana: The Hoosiers have a chance to quickly move on with another home game Tuesday against Morehead State (**TV:** Live on BTN at 7 p.m.).

LEGAL

SB#IF2310008
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JEFFERSON SUPERIOR COURT) SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
CAUSE NO: 39D01-2311-MF-000984
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LB-RANCH SERIES V TRUST
Plaintiff
vs.
LYNN ANN COLDIRON (DECEASED), et al.
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the Defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned: You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is a Complaint on Note and for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described real estate:
LOT NUMBER EIGHT (8) OF QUIET ACRES SUBDIVISION AS FOUND IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 9 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA.
More commonly known as: 5944 West State Road 256 Madison, Indiana 47250.
This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to the following named Defendants whose whereabouts are known to me: N/A
This Summons by Publication is also specifically directed to the following named Defendants whose whereabouts are unknown to me: Unknown Heirs of Lynn Ann Coldiron.
In addition to the above-named Defendants being served by this Summons, there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded.
SOTTILE & BARILE, LLC
By: /s/ Dennis V. Ferguson
Dennis V. Ferguson (8474-49)
Joel F. Bornkamp (27410-49)
Attorney for Plaintiff
ATTEST:
Clerk of the Jefferson Superior Court
hspaxlp

LEGAL

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Indiana, in Cause No. 39C01-2207-MF-000502 wherein U.S. Bank National Association was Plaintiff, and The Unknown Heirs at Law of Amanda R. Huttsell, deceased a/k/a Amanda R. McCoy and Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 25th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 317 South Walnut Street, Madison, IN 47250, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jefferson County, Indiana.
The following described real estate located in Jefferson County, Indiana, to-wit: Tract I: A part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 9 East, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point 952 feet South of the Northeast corner of the said Southeast Quarter and on the quarter section line; thence North 150 feet; thence due West 290 feet; thence due South 150 feet; thence East 290 feet to the place of beginning. Containing one acre, more or less. EXCEPTING THEREFROM the following described real estate, to wit: Being a part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 9 East, Lancaster Township, Jefferson County, Indiana, and described as follows: Commencing in the center of County Road 700 West at the Northeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, marked by a 1/2" rebar; thence South 0°22'00" west, 802.00 feet to a R.R. spike and THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence South 0°22'00" West, 114.83 feet to a R.R. spike; thence North 47°11'04" West, 170.14 feet to a R.R. spike; thence South 89°39'00" East, 125.54 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 0.165, more or less. (For this exception see Deed Record 174, Page 1475, in the Recorder's Office of Jefferson County, Indiana.)
Under such Deed, grantors, Charles D. Vance and Linda Carroll Vance, reserved unto themselves and their successors a perpetual easement for the purposes of ingress and egress across the existing gravel drive to provide accessibility to the land lying to the West of said gravel drive. Tract II: Also a part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 9 East, described as follows: Commencing at the center line of County Road 700 W at the Southeast corner of Section 4, being marked by a R.R. spike; thence N 0°22'35" E, 655.73 feet to a railroad spike; thence N 0°22'00" E, 1033.93 feet to a railroad spike and the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence N 87°59'27" W, 290.12 feet to a 1/2" rebar, thence N 0°22'00" E, 10.77 feet to a point; thence S 89°38'00" E, 290.00 feet to a point; thence S 0°22'00" W, 19.09 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 0.099 acres, more or less.
More commonly known as: 7011 W 1137 N, Dupont, IN 47231
Parcel No. : 39-04-04-000-013.000-004, 39-04-04-000-014.001-004 & 39-04-04-000-015.004-004
Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws.
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2-time ABA champ, Mr. Basketball McGinnis dies

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — George McGinnis spent his teenage years sneaking into Pacers games at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

He finished his Hall of Fame career as one of the most popular, revered and decorated basketball players in Pacers history.

The groundbreaking power forward, who captivated ABA and NBA fans with his one-handed jump shot, uncanny athleticism and pioneering spirit, died early Thursday morning. McGinnis was 73.

The Indiana Pacers said he died following complications from a cardiac arrest suffered last week at his home. McGinnis also had struggled to walk in recent years after undergoing multiple back surgeries because of a hereditary condition.

McGinnis was the consummate Hoosier, listening to high school games from the Hinkle Fieldhouse parking lot, relying on friendly ushers to introduce him to pro basketball and becoming a goodwill ambassador for his home state's top sport.

And it all started with one game in the late 1960s.

"It was pro basketball and it was the first time I had seen it," McGinnis told The Associated Press in 2021. "They had an NBA game on TV once a week or so, but seeing the pro game up close was one of the most outstanding times in my life."

Basketball turned McGinnis into a celebrity whose career path had him rubbing elbows with some of Indiana's biggest basketball names — Oscar Robertson, Rick Mount, Larry Bird, Bobby "Slick" Leonard, Bob Knight and dozens of others through the years.

His deep, deliberate speech pattern, warm personality and passion for the sport helped him bond with the fans who watched him go from prep star to unstoppable force in his one and only college season at Indiana before eventually leading the Pacers on two of their three ABA title runs.

"From his all-state high school days to his time as an IU All-American and, of course, to his legendary ABA championship runs with the Pacers, George McGinnis shaped so many of the fondest basketball memories for generations of Hoosiers," the Simon Family and Pacers Sports & Entertainment said in a statement. "He was the very definition of an Indiana basketball legend, a champion, and Hall of Fame athlete."

McGinnis was changing the game long before he made it to the pros, though.

After watching Robertson lead Indianapolis Crispus Attucks to Indiana's first undefeated Indiana state championship in 1956, McGinnis matched him by taking Indianapolis Washington on a 31-0 title run and the third perfect season in Indiana history.

Robertson and McGinnis both refined their games at Indianapolis' famed Lockefield Dust Bowl.

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LEGAL

Notice of a Petition for a Dissolution of Marriage

Let it be known that, I, Julia Mae Daniels, have petitioned for a dissolution of marriage from Zander Christian Daniels in the state of Indiana at the Jefferson County Courthouse on October 23,2023. The case number for this petitioned dissolution is 39D01-2310-DN-905.

Filed: October 23, 2023
Petitioner: Julia Mae Daniels
Respondent: Zander Christian Daniels

hspaxlp

LEGAL

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jefferson County, Indiana, in cause No. 39D01-2212-MF-000950, wherein NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing was Plaintiff, and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems INC.as nominee for Geneva Financial LLC, Nicole L. Casillas Salvador and Carlos Casillas Salvador were the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in the said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on January 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. local time of said day, at Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, 317 S. Walnut Street, Madison, Indiana, 47250, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jefferson County, Indiana:

ALL THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY IN THE STATE OF INDIANA:
ALL OF LOT NO 17 AND 30 FEET OFF THE ENTIRE EAST SIDE OF LOT NUMBER 18 IN CLIFTY HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, IN THE CITY OF MADISON, JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA.
THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON BEING KNOWN AS 1436 CLIFTY DRIVE, MADISON, INDIANA - 47250.
More Commonly known as: 1436 Clifty Drive, Madison, IN 47250
Property ID Number: 39-08-21-331-052-000-007
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws.
/s/ Andrew L Kraemer,
Plaintiff Attorney
Attorney No. 14872-71
Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC
500 West Lincoln Highway, Suite J
Merrillville, IN 46410
312-541-9710

/s/ Ben Flint
Sheriff of Jefferson County, Indiana
Madison Township
Township of Property Location
1436 Clifty Drive
Madison, IN 47250
Street Address

Sheriff's File Number
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published here

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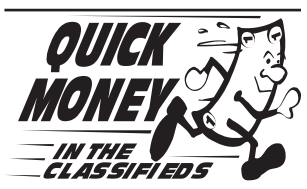

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Corydon: 2BR duplex, ground level apartment, ideal for senior citizen, washer/dryer hookups available, quiet, 5 miles north of Corydon Wal-Mart, $800/mo., 812-972-0435.

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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MADISON- CHATEAU MANOR - Quiet hilltop neighborhood with sidewalks and shade trees at corner of Cragmont and Mouser. Spacious 2BR Apartments with renovated kitchen and bathroom, dishwasher, washer/dryer hookup, Abundant closet space and deck. Rent $627- $675. Deposit $550. References required. Call (812)273-3375

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CHARGE

FROM **PAGE B1**

The Jets began chipping into the large Switzerland lead immediately and took the lead in the third quarter. Hauser then iced the win in the fourth.

Cam Craig led Switzerland County with 18 points while Kadyn Riley had 14. Craig also had eight rebounds.

Switzerland, now 4-2 on the season, travels to North Decatur on Friday.

TRIMBLE FALLS TO GALLATIN

Trimble County dropped a 78-53 decision at Gallatin County on Friday.

Ethan Horn scored 26 points to lead the Raiders while Ethan Keller and Coltin Humphreys scored eight points each.

Trimble, now 2-5 overall and 1-2 in the 31st District Tournament, hosts Anderson County on Tuesday and plays in the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament at Madison starting on Friday. The Raiders will face Madison at 8:30 p.m. on Friday night and will then close out pool play against Shawe at 11:50 a.m. on Saturday morning. The tourney wraps up on Saturday evening.

CARROLL DROPS 2 GAMES

Carroll County suffered a pair of losses late last week.

On Friday, Carroll lost 87-58 at home to Owen County. On Saturday, the Panthers lost 69-45 to Williamstown on the road.

Carroll, now 3-4 overall, falls to 1-2 in the 31st District and 0-2 in North Central Kentucky Conference play. The Panthers host Augusta on Wednesday and then will play in the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament at Madison beginning on Friday. The Panthers will face Class 2A No. 5 Southwestern at 6:40 p.m. on Friday and will wrap up pool play against Christian Academy of Indiana on Saturday at 10 a.m. The final games of the tourney will be played Saturday night.

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REBELS

FROM **PAGE B1**

The two victories pushed Nussbaum's career win total to 70. He is now 50 games over .500 since taking over for Jerry Bomholt late in the 2019-20 season.

Southwestern now turns its focus to the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament, which will kick off at Madison starting on Friday. The Rebels have won two of the last three JCITs and would love to defend their crown won last year.

Southwestern opens the tournament on Friday against fellow unbeaten Christian Academy of Indiana at 3 p.m. and will wrap up pool play against Carroll County at 6:40 p.m. The tournament will conclude on Saturday.

Southwestern's Jackson Taylor shoots over Jac-Cen-Del's Clark Dwenger (42) during Friday's win at King Gym in Hanover.

David Campbell

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